2027 Resolutions

For Member Action: Upon Approval by Resolutions Committee

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2027 Resolution Guidelines

A resolution is a statement of the Alaska Municipal League's intent to support a specific action on a significant issue or legislation affecting municipalities. Resolutions are introduced, debated, and adopted by AML members each year during the Business Meeting at the Annual Local Government Conference.

To be considered during the conference, resolutions must conform to the following policy, procedural and format guidelines that have been adopted by the AML Board of Directors.

RESOLUTION GUIDELINES

1. Resolutions shall concern shared policy and program needs, state or federal legislation, issues, or problems of Alaska municipalities and shall state the problem and action sought.
    a. Resolutions may not conflict with any adopted AML positions.
    b. Resolutions that allow conflict between one community against another will be eliminated.
    c. Resolutions will be revised to make a general application instead of one seeking to benefit a
    d. single member only or that comes at the expense of another member.
    e. Resolutions with the same topic will be combined.
2. Resolutions shall be restricted to action-specific issues and issues of some immediacy and shall be directed to the Governor, Legislature, State agency, President and/or the Congress.
3. Resolutions differ from policies in that:
    a. Resolutions shall address specific issues rather than general policy.
    b. Resolutions may address regional issues as well as statewide concerns.
    c. Resolutions are intended to address timely issues such as current legislative proposals.

HOW TO SUBMIT

1. Only councils and assemblies of member municipalities, affiliated municipal associations, affiliated regional municipal organizations (comprised of municipal officials), the AML Board and the Alaska Conference of Mayors are eligible to submit resolutions for consideration. Each resolution submitted must have been approved by a formal action of the sponsoring body and by at least one member municipality, if not a local government.
2. Resolutions should be mailed, faxed or emailed to the AML office by October 23.
3. A final Resolutions packet will be distributed to members by October 30.
4. The First Vice-President shall serve as Chair of the Resolutions Committee and shall appoint eight (8) additional elected and appointed municipal officials.
5. The Resolutions Committee will meet on Wednesday, December 9 – the membership is invited to attend.
6. Resolutions not submitted by October 23 may be offered to the Resolution Committee on December 9, for consideration during the Resolution Committee meeting. However, the sponsor

of any resolution presented directly to the Resolution Committee must have the support of representatives of five (5) member municipalities.

7. The Resolutions Committee shall review and adopt prior year resolutions to develop as part of a consent agenda for the Business Meeting.
    a. Members may request by resolution pulling items from the
    b. consent agenda for floor debate and reconsideration. The format for this follows that above, with resolutions due by October 23, or if directly to the Committee on December 9 with support of five other members. Consent agenda items may not be considered otherwise during the Business Meeting.
8. The Resolutions Committee shall, based on the above guidelines, review and act upon each resolution for final recommendation to the membership. The Resolutions Committee shall approve, amend, or reject each resolution submitted, note its action, and, if the resolution is approved, send it to the Business Meeting for consideration. If a resolution is rejected, the Committee shall prepare
    a. a brief written justification of its action and forward that information to the Business Meeting.
9. Resolutions will be reviewed, debated and acted upon by the AML Membership at the Annual Business Meeting. Sponsors of properly submitted resolutions will be given an opportunity to discuss and support their resolutions at the meeting.
10. A resolution rejected by the Resolution Committee may be brought to the floor of the Business Meeting on December 11 only if it is signed by representatives from twenty (20) member municipalities. No new resolutions may be submitted to the Business Meeting without first going to the Resolution Committee.
11. Members will vote on resolutions at the Annual Business Meeting on Friday, December 11.

RESOLUTIONS FORMAT

The resolution must be in the proper format. The name of the sponsoring member municipality or association and the date of submission must be indicated on the bottom of the resolution. Each resolution submitted must indicate that it is a "Resolution of the Alaska Municipal League, Resolution #2027-xx and have a title, beginning, "A Resolution …" that describes the issue and intent of the resolution. Throughout the text, the resolution should indicate that AML is taking the position advocated, not a given municipality or organization. At least one "Whereas" clause should identify the policies in the AML Position Statement that the resolution addresses (i.e., expands or supplements), if applicable.

Please email resolutions to: Nils@akml.org or Kaitlyn@akml.org; fax to: (907) 463-5480; or mail to: AML, One Sealaska Plaza Suite 302, Juneau, AK 99801

RESOLUTION #2027-01

A RESOLUTION SUPPORTING ESTABLISHMENT OF A BASE FACILITIES ALLOCATION AND A PREDICTABLE STATE FUNDING FRAMEWORK FOR SCHOOL FACILITY OPERATIONS, MAJOR MAINTENANCE, CONSTRUCTION, AND LOCALLY FINANCED CAPITAL IMPROVEMENTS

WHEREAS, Article VII, Section 1 of the Alaska Constitution requires the Legislature to establish and maintain a system of public schools; and

WHEREAS functioning, safe, and adequately maintained school facilities are necessary infrastructure for delivery of that system; and

WHEREAS, Alaska school facilities represent substantial long-term public assets that require ongoing operations, preventive maintenance, lifecycle renewal, major maintenance, renovation, and eventual replacement; and

WHEREAS, failure to adequately fund routine and lifecycle maintenance can result in deferred maintenance, higher future capital costs, shortened facility life, and increased demands on the State's Major Maintenance and School Construction programs; and

WHEREAS, responsibility for school facilities is currently distributed among school districts, municipalities, Regional Educational Attendance Areas, and the State through multiple operating and capital mechanisms, creating substantially different circumstances among communities and districts; and

WHEREAS, AML has consistently supported increased State investment in school construction and major maintenance and predictable State participation in locally financed school capital projects; and

WHEREAS, AML's existing policy calls for a Base Facilities Allocation as a dedicated mechanism for meeting school facility needs and for restoration of predictable school bond debt reimbursement; and

WHEREAS, a Base Facilities Allocation framework under consideration would provide an annual formula allocation for school facility operations, maintenance, utilities and energy costs, and lifecycle renewal, with potential formula factors including the number and size of facilities, regional energy and climate conditions, and facility replacement value; and

WHEREAS, such a formula can establish a predictable base level of facility stewardship while requiring appropriate preventive maintenance, financial tracking, reporting, and preservation of unspent lifecycle funds for future facility needs; and

WHEREAS, a Base Facilities Allocation should complement rather than replace the State's existing responsibilities for major maintenance and school construction, because routine operations and lifecycle renewal cannot reasonably address major rehabilitation, replacement, expansion, or new construction needs; and

WHEREAS, the State's Major Maintenance and School Construction grant programs provide mechanisms for addressing larger capital needs but annual appropriations have not consistently addressed the full inventory of eligible or identified projects, producing deferred needs and uncertainty for school districts and municipalities; and

WHEREAS, municipalities have also historically used voter-approved bonds to finance school capital projects in partnership with the State, but the absence of a predictable prospective school bond debt reimbursement program has shifted additional risk to local taxpayers and limited the usefulness of that financing tool; and

WHEREAS, Regional Educational Attendance Areas and communities without comparable municipal tax bases depend more directly upon the State to meet school construction and major maintenance needs, requiring a statewide framework that provides equitable access to safe and functional school facilities regardless of local taxing capacity; and

WHEREAS, Alaska would benefit from treating school facilities as a lifecycle continuum in which predictable funding for routine stewardship reduces future major-maintenance demand, major-maintenance funding extends useful facility life, construction funding addresses replacement and new capacity, and municipal financing provides an additional tool where appropriate;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Alaska Municipal League supports enactment of a statutory Base Facilities Allocation providing predictable annual State funding for the operations, maintenance, and lifecycle stewardship of K-12 school facilities; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Base Facilities Allocation should be established as a distinct and additional component of the State's education funding framework and should not reduce the Base Student Allocation, Basic Need, or other State foundation funding otherwise available for classroom instruction and educational services; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Legislature should structure the Base Facilities Allocation so that receipt of facilities funding does not result in an offsetting increase in the Required Local Contribution or an equivalent reduction in State foundation aid that defeats the purpose of establishing a dedicated facilities allocation; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a Base Facilities Allocation should incorporate transparent and objectively measured factors that appropriately recognize:

1. A minimum level of support for each operated school facility;
2. Eligible facility square footage and reasonable operations and maintenance costs;
3. Regional climate, utility, fuel, transportation, and energy-cost differences;
4. Lifecycle renewal and replacement needs based on facility age, condition, and replacement value;
5. The additional logistical costs associated with remote and rural facilities; and
6. Appropriate preventive-maintenance and facility-management requirements;

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that districts should be permitted to carry forward the lifecycle-renewal component of a Base Facilities Allocation in a dedicated facilities reserve so that predictable annual funding can accumulate for planned renewal and replacement rather than creating incentives for year-end spending; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that establishment of a Base Facilities Allocation must be accompanied by continued and increased State support for the Major Maintenance and School Construction grant

programs, recognizing the distinct purposes of each component of a comprehensive school facilities system:

- Base Facilities Allocation: routine operations, preventive maintenance, and lifecycle stewardship;
- Major Maintenance: substantial rehabilitation, renewal, health and safety improvements, and projects beyond routine maintenance capacity;
- School Construction: facility replacement, new schools, major additions, and other significant capital requirements; and
- Local financing with State participation: an optional mechanism through which municipalities and local voters may accelerate eligible projects where local borrowing is appropriate;

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that AML calls on the State to establish a predictable prospective school bond debt reimbursement program, or an equivalent State-local capital partnership, with clear eligibility standards, reimbursement levels, approval timelines, and State commitments known before municipal voters are asked to authorize debt; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the State should maintain a multi-year school facilities funding plan that integrates Base Facilities Allocation needs, the Major Maintenance and School Construction priority lists, anticipated facility replacement, and State participation in locally financed projects, allowing the Legislature, districts, municipalities, and the public to understand both near-term appropriations and long-term liabilities; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the State should ensure that Regional Educational Attendance Areas and other districts without comparable local taxing capacity receive sufficient State support for the full lifecycle of their school facilities and are not disadvantaged by programs that depend upon municipal bonding capacity or local property wealth; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that AML will work with the Governor, Legislature, Department of Education and Early Development, school districts, municipalities, and other education stakeholders to develop and implement a comprehensive school facilities framework that protects public assets, improves predictability, and assigns routine, major-maintenance, construction, and financing responsibilities clearly and sustainably.

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

RESOLUTION #2027-02

A RESOLUTION CALLING ON THE STATE OF ALASKA TO FULFILL ITS CONSTITUTIONAL RESPONSIBILITY FOR PUBLIC EDUCATION THROUGH A SUSTAINABLE AND PREDICTABLE FUNDING FRAMEWORK THAT APPROPRIATELY BALANCES STATE FUNDING, REQUIRED AND VOLUNTARY LOCAL CONTRIBUTIONS, FEDERAL IMPACT AID, AND THE ACTUAL COST OF PROVIDING EDUCATION

WHEREAS, Article VII, Section 1 of the Alaska Constitution directs the Legislature to establish and maintain a system of public schools open to all children of the State; and

WHEREAS, the Alaska Supreme Court has repeatedly recognized that this constitutional provision places a mandatory and continuing responsibility on the State Legislature to establish and maintain Alaska's public school system; and

WHEREAS, local governments are essential partners in the delivery of public education, providing required and voluntary local funding, facilities, planning, administrative coordination, and other support, but the delegation of education responsibilities to school districts and municipalities does not transfer the State's underlying constitutional responsibility for maintaining the system; and

WHEREAS, Alaska's statutory foundation formula defines public school funding as consisting of State aid, a Required Local Contribution, and eligible federal Impact Aid, with State aid generally calculated as Basic Need minus the Required Local Contribution and 90 percent of eligible federal Impact Aid; and

WHEREAS, the Required Local Contribution for municipal districts is based on the full and true value of taxable property, meaning that changes in property valuation can increase a municipality's required contribution and correspondingly reduce State aid without necessarily reflecting a comparable change in the municipality's ability to raise revenue or in the cost of providing education; and

WHEREAS, in 2026 the Legislature passed HB 28, which retained the Required Local Contribution calculation based on the equivalent of a 2.65-mill levy on full and true taxable property value while limiting a district's Required Local Contribution to no more than four percent above the preceding fiscal year's required contribution; and

WHEREAS, the four-percent annual growth limitation enacted in 2026 represents an effort to provide greater predictability for municipal governments and school districts, while broader questions remain regarding the appropriate rate of annual growth, the underlying property-value-based calculation, differences in municipal fiscal capacity, and the appropriate allocation of State and local responsibility; and

WHEREAS, AML has consistently opposed shifting an increasing share of the State's education responsibility to local governments and has supported an equitable local funding mechanism, recognizing that higher required local contributions can require municipalities to increase taxes or reduce funding for other essential local services; and

WHEREAS, municipalities differ substantially in taxable property value, revenue-raising capacity, federal land presence, economic conditions, and the cost of providing local services, making it important that any

local contribution requirement recognize differences in local fiscal capacity and avoid unintended cost shifts; and

WHEREAS, federal Impact Aid was created to compensate local educational agencies that have lost property tax revenue because of tax-exempt federal property or that incur costs associated with federally connected students; and

WHEREAS, Alaska is permitted under federal law, subject to federal equalization requirements, to consider eligible Impact Aid within its education funding formula, and Alaska currently uses 90 percent of eligible Impact Aid to reduce State aid otherwise calculated for a district; and

WHEREAS, this treatment means that much of the federal assistance provided because of federal impacts within particular Alaska communities substitutes for State formula funding rather than remaining available to address the local fiscal impacts for which the federal funds were provided; and

WHEREAS, AML has previously called for federal Impact Aid to be recognized as part of the local contribution to education rather than principally as an offset to the State's contribution; and

WHEREAS, voluntary local contributions reflect decisions by communities to supplement the public education system and should, to the maximum extent permissible under federal equalization requirements, remain an expression of local priorities rather than a substitute for the State's responsibility to adequately fund Basic Need; and

WHEREAS, year-to-year changes in enrollment can result in significant changes in school district funding even where districts cannot reduce staffing, facilities, transportation, utilities, and other fixed costs at the same rate, creating additional budget instability for municipal school districts and the municipalities that support them; and

WHEREAS, the cost of providing public education varies substantially throughout Alaska because of differences in transportation, energy and utilities, facility operation and maintenance, health care, staffing, geography, community size, and other essential operating costs; and

WHEREAS, adequate and timely funding for early education and early childhood programs supports school readiness and should be considered as part of a stable and coordinated State education funding system; and

WHEREAS, uncertainty regarding State education funding late in the legislative session creates significant challenges for school districts and municipalities that must adopt budgets, negotiate collective bargaining agreements, hire and retain staff, and make decisions regarding programs and services before final State funding levels may be known; and

WHEREAS, AML has consistently supported adequate and predictable State education funding, including maintaining the purchasing power of the Base Student Allocation, while recognizing that the broader question is not simply the amount of any single formula component but the appropriate allocation of responsibility among State, local, and federal resources; and

WHEREAS, AML previously identified litigation as one potential means of clarifying the respective State and local responsibilities for public education, but legislative reform, administrative action, research,

negotiation, coalition-building, and, where appropriate, legal action are all tools available to ensure that those responsibilities are understood and fulfilled;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Alaska Municipal League affirms that the State of Alaska is the ultimate guarantor of Alaska's public school system and, for purposes of establishing a sustainable funding framework, should function as the payer of last resort necessary to ensure that the system established by the State is adequately funded after appropriately structured local and federal resources are accounted for; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that AML calls on the Governor and Legislature to maintain a predictable level of State foundation funding sufficient to meet the State's responsibility for the public education system, including regular inflationary adjustments to the Base Student Allocation or other formula components necessary to maintain purchasing power and reduce recurring reliance on one-time appropriations; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that AML calls for continued review and reform of the Required Local Contribution so that:

1. the underlying formula appropriately recognizes significant differences in municipal tax base, economic conditions, and ability to generate local revenue;
2. growth in taxable property values does not, by itself, result in a continuing transfer of education costs from the State to municipalities without consideration of local fiscal capacity;
3. annual growth in the Required Local Contribution is limited to 2.5 percent, or otherwise set at a level consistent with meeting the goals set out herein, including predictable municipal budgeting, consideration of the local fiscal capacity, and avoidance of unintended costs shifts from the State to municipalities;
4. changes to the Required Local Contribution do not become a mechanism for systematically transferring a larger share of the State's constitutional education responsibility to municipalities; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that AML calls on the State to reconsider its treatment of federal Impact Aid and evaluate approaches that more directly recognize Impact Aid as a resource associated with the affected district and community, including counting a greater share toward local contribution or otherwise reducing the amount used to offset State aid, consistent with federal law and Alaska's continued compliance with applicable federal equalization requirements; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that AML supports preserving meaningful local discretion to provide voluntary additional support for schools, consistent with federal equalization requirements, without reducing the State's responsibility to fund the underlying public education system; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that AML supports structural improvements to the Foundation Formula that improve stability for districts experiencing enrollment changes, including consideration of multi-year enrollment averaging or comparable mechanisms that reduce abrupt year-to-year funding changes while appropriately recognizing student growth; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that AML calls for continued review of the Foundation Formula and related State funding mechanisms to ensure that State support better reflects the actual and varying costs of operating schools throughout Alaska, including transportation, energy and utilities, facility operation

and maintenance, health care, staffing, and other essential costs, particularly in rural and remote communities; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that AML supports stable and timely State funding for early education and early childhood programs as part of a comprehensive public education funding framework; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that AML calls on the Governor and Legislature to establish a predictable process and timeline for determining State education funding sufficiently early to allow school districts and municipalities to responsibly develop budgets, negotiate collective bargaining agreements, make staffing decisions, and plan programs and services; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Legislature and Department of Education and Early Development should regularly publish, by district and municipality, the respective shares of Basic Need supported by State aid, Required Local Contribution, voluntary local contribution, and eligible federal Impact Aid, together with the effects of changes in property valuation and formula adjustments, so that policymakers and the public can clearly understand how responsibility for education funding is distributed; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that AML opposes efforts that shift the State's responsibility for adequately funding public education onto local communities or otherwise reduce the State's responsibility for maintaining the public education system; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that AML will pursue these objectives through legislative and administrative advocacy, research and analysis, collaboration with school districts and education stakeholders, and other appropriate tools, including legal review or action when necessary to clarify and protect the respective responsibilities of the State and local governments.

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

RESOLUTION #2027-03

A RESOLUTION SUPPORTING SUSTAINABLE STATE REVENUE MEASURES AND THE USE OF ADDITIONAL REVENUE TO STRENGTHEN THE COMMUNITY ASSISTANCE PROGRAM, LOCAL EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT AND RESILIENCE, AND NONFEDERAL MATCH FOR MUNICIPAL INFRASTRUCTURE

WHEREAS, the State of Alaska and its local governments share responsibility for providing the public infrastructure and services necessary for safe, functioning, and economically productive communities; and

WHEREAS, Alaska's fiscal structure remains unusually dependent on natural-resource revenue and investment earnings, leaving State programs and services vulnerable to fluctuations in oil prices, production, financial markets, and annual budget conditions; and

WHEREAS, recurring State revenue has not consistently kept pace with the rising cost of maintaining existing public services and infrastructure, including increased personnel, energy, construction, and maintenance expenses. Flat or reduced State funding for programs such as Community Assistance, school construction and maintenance, public safety, and transportation infrastructure places additional financial pressure on local governments, often forcing municipalities to absorb costs, defer critical infrastructure investments, increase local taxes and fees, or reduce essential services; and

WHEREAS, the Alaska Legislature has considered a variety of approaches to strengthen and diversify State revenue, including modernization of corporate income-tax apportionment to reflect digital and remote economic activity, taxation of certain high-income pass-through entities, changes to resource taxation, broad-based taxes, industry-specific assessments and other revenue measures; and

WHEREAS, these proposals demonstrate that multiple options exist for improving the sustainability of Alaska's fiscal system and reducing reliance on any single revenue source; and

WHEREAS, any new State revenue structure should recognize and protect the existing revenue authority of municipalities, avoid unnecessarily displacing local tax bases, and account for differences in community economies and fiscal capacity across Alaska; and

WHEREAS, additional recurring State revenue provides an opportunity not only to balance annual budgets but also to make targeted investments that reduce future State costs, strengthen local service delivery, and leverage substantially greater federal and private investment; and

WHEREAS, the Community Assistance Program is one of the State's principal mechanisms for supporting basic municipal services and has experienced a substantial decline in real purchasing power over time even as the cost of providing public safety, utilities, administration, transportation, and other essential services has increased; and

WHEREAS, predictable and adequately funded Community Assistance Program strengthens local government capacity and reduces the likelihood that service failures, fiscal distress, or deferred maintenance will result in greater future costs to the State; and

WHEREAS, municipalities are increasingly responsible for emergency preparedness, hazard mitigation, continuity of operations, disaster response, recovery, and community resilience activities, while many

communities lack sufficient recurring resources to maintain emergency-management personnel, update plans, conduct exercises, maintain communications and warning systems, and prepare projects before a disaster occurs; and

WHEREAS, investments in preparedness, mitigation, and resilience can reduce future losses to public infrastructure and lessen the financial consequences of disasters for residents, municipalities, and the State; and

WHEREAS, billions of dollars in federal infrastructure, transportation, energy, water, housing, hazard-mitigation, economic-development, and resilience programs are potentially available to Alaska communities, but access to those funds frequently requires a nonfederal match that exceeds the financial capacity of smaller and rural municipalities; and

WHEREAS, the inability to provide required match can leave otherwise competitive Alaska projects unfunded and can result in federal resources being invested elsewhere, even where projects address significant State and community priorities; and

WHEREAS, a State-supported municipal match program could leverage State dollars several times over, accelerate project development and construction, and ensure that communities with limited tax bases are not excluded from federal infrastructure opportunities solely because of their inability to generate match; and

WHEREAS, strengthening the Community Assistance Program, local emergency-management and resilience capacity, and municipal access to nonfederal match represents investment in the State's own fiscal, economic, and infrastructure interests;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Alaska Municipal League supports the State of Alaska developing a sustainable and diversified fiscal structure capable of supporting essential State responsibilities and a predictable State-local fiscal partnership; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that AML encourages the Governor and Legislature, when considering additional State revenue, to evaluate a range of approaches that may include modernization of existing taxes, closing gaps or inconsistencies in the tax base, appropriately capturing income and economic activity attributable to Alaska, resource-related revenues, broad-based revenues, industry-specific revenues, and other mechanisms determined through the legislative process; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that AML supports revenue policies that protect municipal taxing authority and local revenue capacity and that avoid shifting State fiscal responsibilities or costs to local governments; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that AML encourages the Legislature to pair any significant new recurring State revenue with investments that strengthen State and local fiscal capacity and reduce future costs, including:

1. Increasing and stabilizing the Community Assistance Program, including consideration of mechanisms that restore purchasing power and provide a predictable level of funding over time;
2. Establishing recurring support for local emergency management, hazard mitigation, resilience planning, preparedness, and related municipal capacity, recognizing that effective local preparedness reduces State and federal disaster-response and recovery costs; and

3. Establishing and capitalizing a statewide nonfederal match program for municipalities, available across infrastructure and community-development programs and structured to account for differences in local fiscal capacity, project readiness, and the amount of outside investment that State funds can leverage; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that AML encourages the State to consider designating, reserving, or regularly appropriating a reasonable portion of revenues generated through newly enacted revenue measures to these purposes so that new revenue produces measurable improvements in community stability, infrastructure investment, and fiscal sustainability; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a municipal nonfederal-match program should be flexible enough to support planning, design, predevelopment, and construction where those expenditures are necessary to secure federal funds, and should provide enhanced assistance to communities with limited tax bases or other demonstrated fiscal constraints; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that State support for local emergency management and resilience should emphasize sustained local capacity and preparedness rather than relying primarily on reimbursement after disasters occur; and

BE IT FINALLY RESOLVED that the Alaska Municipal League urges the Governor and Alaska Legislature to treat sustainable State revenue and sustainable municipal capacity as interconnected components of Alaska's fiscal policy, recognizing that investment in functioning local governments strengthens the State's economy, protects public assets, leverages outside investment, and reduces future State liabilities.

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

RESOLUTION #2027-04

A RESOLUTION SUPPORTING THE INCLUSION OF UNITED STATES COAST GUARD COMMUNITIES IN THE DEFENSE COMMUNITY INFRASTRUCTURE PROGRAM

WHEREAS, Alaska's geographic position, extensive coastline, Arctic waters, maritime economy, and proximity to international boundaries make the state critically important to the national security, economic security, and maritime interests of the United States; and

WHEREAS, the United States Coast Guard maintains a significant operational presence throughout Alaska, with Coast Guard personnel, facilities, vessels, aircraft, and missions located in and supported by communities across the state; and

WHEREAS, Coast Guard missions in Alaska include search and rescue, maritime safety and security, fisheries enforcement, environmental response, aids to navigation, defense readiness, protection of maritime commerce, and support for United States sovereignty and security in the Arctic; and

WHEREAS, federal law establishes the Coast Guard as a military service and branch of the Armed Forces of the United States at all times, although it generally operates within the Department of Homeland Security; and

WHEREAS, Alaska municipalities supporting Coast Guard personnel and operations provide transportation systems, ports and harbors, water and wastewater systems, utilities, public safety and emergency response, schools, housing-related infrastructure, telecommunications, and other community services upon which Coast Guard personnel, families, and missions depend; and

WHEREAS, the readiness and effectiveness of Coast Guard operations depend not only upon federal facilities but also upon the capacity and resilience of the communities in which Coast Guard members, civilian personnel, and their families live and work; and

WHEREAS, the Defense Community Infrastructure Program (DCIP), administered by the Office of Local Defense Community Cooperation pursuant to 10 U.S.C. § 2391(d), provides federal matching grants to state and local governments and eligible utilities for community infrastructure supportive of military installations, including transportation, schools, hospitals, police and fire facilities, emergency response facilities, water and wastewater systems, telecommunications, electric and gas utilities, and other eligible infrastructure; and

WHEREAS, eligible DCIP projects may include transportation, schools, hospitals, police and fire facilities, emergency response facilities, water and wastewater systems, telecommunications, electricity, natural gas, and other infrastructure located outside a military installation but necessary to support its mission; and

WHEREAS, Congress has recognized through DCIP that the infrastructure necessary to support national defense extends beyond the boundaries of a military installation and that investment in surrounding communities can directly strengthen military readiness and resilience; and

WHEREAS, current DCIP authority in 10 U.S.C. § 2391 is tied to the statutory definition of a “military installation” under the jurisdiction of a military department, while Title 10 defines the military departments as the Departments of the Army, Navy, and Air Force; as a result, Coast Guard installations

operating under the Department of Homeland Security do not generally receive the same treatment as Department of Defense installations for purposes of DCIP; and

WHEREAS, this distinction is particularly significant in Alaska, where Coast Guard installations and missions are an integral part of the state's overall defense presence and where relatively small local governments may bear substantial infrastructure responsibilities associated with supporting federal operations; and

WHEREAS, the Alaska Defense Forum brings together military leaders, community stakeholders, and defense partners around Alaska's role in national defense and recognizes Coast Guard installations and communities as an important component of Alaska's broader defense infrastructure; and

WHEREAS, the Association of Defense Communities has advanced the principle that military installations and their surrounding communities operate as “one community,” recognizing that resilient local infrastructure, strong public services, and military family quality of life are essential elements of mission readiness; and

WHEREAS, extending this same defense-community approach to the Coast Guard would provide communities hosting Coast Guard installations with access to a proven mechanism for addressing infrastructure deficiencies that directly affect federal missions, personnel, and families; and

WHEREAS, expanding eligibility should complement, rather than reduce, resources available to existing Department of Defense communities, making corresponding increases in federal appropriations appropriate as eligibility is broadened;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Alaska Municipal League supports amendment of federal law to make communities supporting United States Coast Guard installations and missions eligible for the Defense Community Infrastructure Program, or the establishment of equivalent federal authority providing Coast Guard communities access to comparable infrastructure assistance; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that, if Congress does not extend DCIP eligibility to Coast Guard communities, the Alaska Municipal League supports creation of a stand-alone community infrastructure grant program within the Department of Homeland Security, through the United States Coast Guard, for communities supporting Coast Guard installations and missions, structured to provide assistance comparable to DCIP; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that Congress should ensure that Coast Guard communities may compete for assistance for transportation, port and harbor, utility, public safety, emergency response, communications, school, and other community infrastructure that contributes to Coast Guard readiness, resilience, mission assurance, or service-member and family quality of life; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that eligibility criteria should recognize the unique nature of Coast Guard operations, including geographically dispersed stations, air facilities, cutters, marine safety units, aids-to-navigation functions, and other mission locations that may not resemble traditional Department of Defense installations but depend substantially upon local infrastructure and services; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that any expansion of DCIP eligibility should be accompanied by sufficient additional appropriations so that inclusion of Coast Guard communities does not diminish the ability of existing defense communities to compete for needed infrastructure investment; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Alaska Municipal League encourages the Alaska Congressional Delegation to work through the annual National Defense Authorization Act, Coast Guard Authorization Act, federal appropriations process, or other appropriate legislation to establish this eligibility or comparable stand-alone authority and to work with the Department of Defense, Department of Homeland Security, United States Coast Guard, Office of Local Defense Community Cooperation, Association of Defense Communities, Alaska Defense Forum, and affected state and local governments to develop an effective implementation framework.

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

RESOLUTION #2027-05

A RESOLUTION CALLING FOR ACCELERATED CLEANUP OF FORMERLY USED DEFENSE SITES AND OTHER FEDERALLY CONTAMINATED LANDS IN ALASKA

WHEREAS, the federal government has maintained an extensive military and civilian presence throughout Alaska, including defense installations, airfields, communications facilities, fuel storage areas, landfills, navigation sites, schools, administrative facilities, and other sites constructed and operated throughout the twentieth century; and

WHEREAS, past federal activities have resulted in contamination, abandoned infrastructure, military munitions and debris, petroleum releases, hazardous substances, and other environmental conditions at locations throughout Alaska; and

WHEREAS, many of these properties are located within or adjacent to Alaska municipalities and communities and, in some cases, have subsequently been transferred, conveyed, or returned to non-federal ownership while contamination resulting from previous federal activities remains; and

WHEREAS, the U.S. Department of Defense is responsible for addressing eligible contamination and military munitions associated with Formerly Used Defense Sites (FUDS), with the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers administering the FUDS program; and

WHEREAS, the Alaska Department of Environmental Conservation works with the Department of Defense and other federal agencies to characterize and clean up contaminated federal sites and reports more than 1,200 individual Department of Defense sites associated with approximately 200 facilities in Alaska; and

WHEREAS, additional contaminated properties are associated with civilian federal agencies, creating a broader federal legacy contamination issue extending beyond the FUDS program; and

WHEREAS, federal cleanup programs may require years or decades of investigation, prioritization, design, appropriation, remediation, monitoring, and closure, during which contamination can continue to constrain land use, infrastructure development, housing, economic activity, subsistence access, and community development; and

WHEREAS, designation of a property as eligible for the FUDS program does not necessarily mean that investigation or cleanup is actively funded or underway, and the pace of remediation is dependent in significant part upon federal prioritization and annual appropriations; and

WHEREAS, the State of Alaska has previously called upon responsible federal agencies to identify contaminated sites for which they are responsible, verify suspected contamination, develop cleanup work plans, and obtain sufficient funding to meet outstanding federal environmental obligations; and

WHEREAS, Alaska's geography, remoteness, limited transportation infrastructure, short construction seasons, and high mobilization costs can substantially increase the time and cost necessary to investigate and remediate contaminated sites; and

WHEREAS, municipalities and communities should not bear financial responsibility for contamination caused by historic federal activities simply because ownership or control of affected property has subsequently changed; and

WHEREAS, unresolved contamination can impede municipal land management and planning, delay public facilities and infrastructure projects, complicate property transactions, restrict redevelopment, and create continuing uncertainty regarding community health, environmental conditions, and future liability; and

WHEREAS, cleanup itself can create significant local economic activity when federal agencies coordinate projects, contracting opportunities, workforce development, transportation, staging, monitoring, and other implementation activities with affected communities;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Alaska Municipal League calls upon the President, Congress, the U.S. Department of Defense, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Department of the Interior, Federal Aviation Administration, and all other responsible federal agencies to accelerate the investigation and cleanup of Formerly Used Defense Sites and other federally contaminated properties in Alaska; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that AML requests that Congress provide sustained and sufficient appropriations for the FUDS program and other federal environmental remediation programs so that cleanup schedules are based on risk, community need, and efficient project delivery rather than constrained principally by annual funding availability; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that AML supports development and maintenance of a comprehensive, publicly accessible statewide inventory of federal legacy contamination, coordinated among federal agencies, the State of Alaska, affected municipalities, Alaska Native organizations and landowners, and other property owners, identifying at minimum:

1. The responsible or potentially responsible federal agency;
2. Site ownership and current land status;
3. Known or suspected contaminants and military munitions;
4. Investigation and cleanup status;
5. Estimated remaining remediation cost;
6. Anticipated schedule and funding status;
7. Land-use restrictions or institutional controls; and
8. The federal point of contact responsible for advancing the site toward closure;

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that AML calls upon responsible federal agencies to establish transparent, community-informed schedules for investigation, remediation, monitoring, and final closure of outstanding sites and to communicate regularly with affected local governments regarding project status, funding, risk management, and anticipated federal actions; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that AML requests that federal agencies identify opportunities to bundle or regionally coordinate cleanup projects where doing so can reduce mobilization costs, accelerate remediation, increase contractor competition, and make more effective use of Alaska's limited construction seasons and workforce; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that federal agencies should coordinate cleanup schedules with municipal capital improvement plans, housing projects, transportation improvements, utility construction, economic development projects, and other planned community investments so that unresolved federal contamination does not unnecessarily delay otherwise viable projects; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that AML calls for federal policy and funding mechanisms that ensure that municipalities, tribes, Alaska Native corporations, and other subsequent landowners are not required to assume the cost or liability associated with contamination caused by historical federal activities as a condition of obtaining cleanup, redevelopment, infrastructure, or other federal assistance; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that where federal contamination prevents or materially delays productive use of municipal or community lands, responsible agencies should prioritize remediation and consider interim measures that allow safe community use while final cleanup proceeds; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that AML encourages the State of Alaska to continue coordinating federal cleanup priorities with affected communities, provide technical and regulatory assistance through the Alaska Department of Environmental Conservation, and work with Alaska's Congressional Delegation to identify sites where federal funding or agency action is preventing timely cleanup; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that AML requests an Alaska-specific federal action plan identifying the backlog of FUDS and other federal contaminated sites, estimated remaining cleanup obligations, projects capable of advancing within the next five years, and funding necessary to substantially reduce that backlog; and

BE IT FINALLY RESOLVED, that cleanup of contamination resulting from historic federal activities should be treated as fulfillment of an existing federal responsibility and as an investment in the health, safety, infrastructure, land availability, and economic future of Alaska communities.

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

RESOLUTION #2027-06

A RESOLUTION SUPPORTING INCREASED STATE INVESTMENT IN DISTRICT ATTORNEY AND PROSECUTORIAL CAPACITY TO STRENGTHEN ALASKA'S STATE-LOCAL PUBLIC SAFETY SYSTEM

WHEREAS, the Alaska Municipal League (AML) represents Alaska's municipalities and works to strengthen local governments and improve the quality of life for Alaska residents; and

WHEREAS, municipalities across Alaska make significant investments in public safety, including municipal police departments, public safety personnel, emergency communications, facilities, equipment, training, investigations, evidence management, and services for victims of crime; and

WHEREAS, municipal police departments enforce State criminal laws and conduct investigations that ultimately depend upon the State of Alaska's criminal justice system for charging decisions, prosecution, court proceedings, and final case resolution; and

WHEREAS, the State of Alaska, through the Department of Law and its district attorney offices, is responsible for prosecution of violations of State criminal law; and

WHEREAS, effective public safety depends upon adequate capacity at every stage of the criminal justice system, and insufficient capacity at one stage can reduce the effectiveness of investments made elsewhere in that system; and

WHEREAS, when prosecutorial staffing or resources are insufficient, cases may require additional time for review and disposition, communication among prosecutors, law enforcement, victims, and witnesses may become more difficult, and municipal police officers may spend additional time maintaining cases, responding to evidentiary requests, appearing in court, or addressing unresolved criminal activity; and

WHEREAS, these impacts are particularly significant for smaller and rural municipalities, where police departments may have limited staffing and where the loss of an officer's time to travel, court appearances, or prolonged case management can substantially affect the availability of local law enforcement services; and

WHEREAS, reliable prosecutorial capacity supports effective investigations by allowing prosecutors and law enforcement agencies to consult regarding charging requirements, evidence, emerging criminal activity, complex cases, and appropriate investigative practices; and

WHEREAS, adequate staffing of district attorney offices must include not only attorneys but also victim-witness professionals, paralegals, administrative personnel, technology, travel, expert witnesses, and other resources necessary to move cases efficiently and responsibly through the criminal justice system; and

WHEREAS, reformed public safety includes increasing carceral diversion and increasing public defense and prosecutorial capacity, strengthening coordination between State Department of Corrections and municipal departments so locally investigated crimes are prosecuted promptly, ensuring accountability, fairness, and improved public safety outcomes; and

WHEREAS, recruitment and retention challenges affect State and local public safety agencies alike, making it important that Alaska maintain competitive compensation, sustainable workloads, professional

development, and other conditions necessary to recruit and retain qualified prosecutors and criminal justice personnel throughout the state; and

WHEREAS, sustained State investment in prosecutorial capacity leverages and strengthens the substantial investments that municipalities already make in local law enforcement and contributes to a more functional, timely, and coordinated public safety system;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Alaska Municipal League supports increased and sustained State funding for the Alaska Department of Law Criminal Division sufficient to maintain adequate district attorney and prosecutorial capacity throughout Alaska; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that AML supports State efforts to recruit and retain prosecutors, victim-witness professionals, paralegals, support personnel, and other staff necessary for effective prosecution, including measures that recognize the particular recruitment and operating challenges of rural and remote Alaska; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that AML encourages the State to ensure that prosecutor staffing levels, caseloads, travel resources, expert services, technology, and operational funding are sufficient to provide timely review and disposition of cases referred by municipal and State law enforcement agencies; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that AML encourages the Department of Law to maintain strong working relationships between district attorney offices and municipal police departments, including opportunities for consultation, training, case coordination, and communication regarding factors affecting the successful investigation and prosecution of criminal offenses; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that AML encourages the Governor and Alaska Legislature to consider investments in prosecutors and district attorney offices as an essential component of support for municipal law enforcement and the broader State-local public safety partnership; and

BE IT FINALLY RESOLVED that the State should evaluate public safety resources as an interconnected system, recognizing that investments in municipal and State law enforcement achieve their greatest value when matched by sufficient prosecutorial, judicial, corrections, behavioral health, and related criminal justice capacity.

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

RESOLUTION #2027-07

PUTTING ALASKA'S PORTS ON THE MAP: A RESOLUTION CALLING ON THE STATE TO ESTABLISH SUSTAINED AND COMPREHENSIVE SUPPORT FOR MUNICIPAL PORTS AND HARBORS, INCLUDING STATEWIDE PLANNING, PROJECT DEVELOPMENT, MATCHING FUNDS, CAPITAL INVESTMENT, AND IMPLEMENTATION

WHEREAS, Alaska is a maritime state, with communities, residents, businesses, industries, and public agencies dependent upon ports, harbors, docks, barge landings, and other marine facilities for transportation, freight and fuel delivery, food security, commercial fishing, tourism, resource development, emergency response, national security, and access to domestic and international markets; and

WHEREAS, for many Alaska communities, marine transportation is not an alternative transportation mode but a fundamental component of the community's connection to the rest of the state and nation; and

WHEREAS, Alaska's ports and harbors support economic activity that extends far beyond the boundaries and tax bases of the municipalities responsible for owning, operating, maintaining, and replacing these facilities; and

WHEREAS, the State of Alaska constructed many of Alaska's public boat harbors during the 1960s and 1970s and subsequently transferred ownership of most formerly State-owned harbors to local governments, in many cases when those facilities were already approaching the end of their useful lives and carried significant deferred maintenance needs; and

WHEREAS, the transfer of ownership appropriately placed day-to-day management and operations closer to the communities served, but did not eliminate the statewide transportation and economic benefits provided by these facilities or the need for State partnership in their long-term recapitalization; and

WHEREAS, Alaska municipalities have invested substantial local resources in the operation, maintenance, planning, design, repair, expansion, and replacement of port and harbor infrastructure, often through enterprise funds and user fees that must balance affordability for residents and businesses with the significant cost of marine infrastructure; and

WHEREAS, an Alaska Municipal League survey of ports and harbors identified at least $500 million in projects necessary to repair and replace former State-owned harbor infrastructure, demonstrating a significant accumulated capital need beyond the fiscal capacity of many individual communities; and

WHEREAS, the Legislature established the Municipal Harbor Facility Grant Program in 2006 to create a State-local partnership for harbor recapitalization, with municipalities generally responsible for providing significant matching funds and for advancing projects to construction readiness; and

WHEREAS, the Harbor Facility Grant Program remains one of the most important State funding mechanisms available for municipal harbor recapitalization, but historically has not received consistent or sufficient annual appropriations relative to qualified project demand; and

WHEREAS, the Harbor Facility Grant Program is principally structured to assist with construction and does not provide the comprehensive support communities may need for early planning, feasibility

analysis, engineering, permitting, environmental review, project development, grant preparation, or other activities necessary to move an infrastructure need into a construction-ready project; and

WHEREAS, those preconstruction costs can present a substantial barrier, particularly for smaller and rural municipalities that may have significant infrastructure needs but limited staff capacity, unrestricted revenue, or borrowing ability; and

WHEREAS, project development capacity is increasingly important as federal transportation and infrastructure programs require communities to identify projects, demonstrate readiness, complete technical analyses, secure non-federal match, and compete for limited funding; and

WHEREAS, a relatively modest State investment in project planning and development can position Alaska communities to compete successfully for substantially larger federal awards and can increase the number of viable, construction-ready projects available for State and federal investment; and

WHEREAS, the Alaska Statewide Transportation Improvement Program is the State's primary four-year program for federally supported surface transportation improvements and includes highways, bridges, ferries, and public transportation, but does not generally include non-ferry-related ports and harbors, leaving much of Alaska's municipal maritime infrastructure outside the State's principal transportation capital programming framework; and

WHEREAS, DOT&PF's statewide transportation planning nevertheless recognizes waterways, ports, harbors, barge services, and marine infrastructure as important components of Alaska's transportation system and as necessary to mobility, economic vitality, and the movement of goods; and

WHEREAS, the absence of a comparable, predictable statewide capital planning and investment framework for municipal ports and harbors can leave projects dependent upon annual discretionary appropriations, individual federal grant opportunities, or the ability of individual municipalities to assemble financing independently; and

WHEREAS, current demand demonstrates both substantial need and significant leverage: for FY2028, DOT&PF identified approximately $20.6 million in Municipal Harbor Facility Grant requests supporting approximately $84.4 million in total project investment, combining State, local, federal, and other funding; and

WHEREAS, State participation in ports and harbors therefore should not be viewed solely as assistance to an individual municipality, but as an investment in a statewide transportation network and in infrastructure that supports Alaska's communities, industries, economy, resilience, and public safety; and

WHEREAS, Alaska would benefit from a more comprehensive understanding of the location, ownership, condition, function, utilization, capital needs, and economic significance of its port and harbor infrastructure, together with a statewide strategy for prioritizing and financing investments; and

WHEREAS, State support should recognize that communities enter the capital process at different stages, and an effective program must be capable of helping communities move from an identified need, through planning and project development, to financing and construction;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Alaska Municipal League calls on the Governor, Alaska Legislature, and Alaska Department of Transportation and Public Facilities to put Alaska's ports

and harbors on the map by recognizing municipal maritime infrastructure as an integral component of Alaska's statewide transportation system and economic infrastructure; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that AML supports development and maintenance of a statewide port and harbor investment strategy that includes an inventory and condition assessment of public marine infrastructure, identification of statewide and regional transportation and economic functions, documentation of capital and deferred maintenance needs, and a transparent multi-year framework for project prioritization and investment; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that AML urges the State to establish or strengthen funding mechanisms that support the full project development continuum, including:

1. needs assessment, feasibility analysis, and planning;
2. conceptual design and alternatives analysis;
3. engineering, environmental review, permitting, and other predevelopment activities;
4. development of construction-ready projects;
5. State and federal grant development and required matching funds;
6. construction, major repair, rehabilitation, expansion, and replacement; and
7. where appropriate, financing tools that allow municipalities to advance projects while leveraging local, State, federal, and private resources; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that AML supports full and predictable capitalization of the Municipal Harbor Facility Grant Program and modernization of its statutory and programmatic limits, including adjustment of maximum grant awards to reflect construction-cost inflation and the actual cost of port and harbor projects; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that State funding programs should recognize differences in municipal fiscal capacity and project scale so that smaller and rural communities are not prevented from developing necessary projects solely because they lack sufficient resources to complete planning, design, grant development, or required match; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that AML supports State investment that maximizes the leverage of federal, local, user-generated, and other available funds and encourages the State to provide timely match and project-development resources when doing so can capture federal infrastructure funding that might otherwise be unavailable to Alaska; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that AML supports consideration of a range of financing and capital tools for major port and harbor needs, including annual capital appropriations, dedicated program funding, general obligation bonds, revenue-supported financing, renewal and modernization of the State's previous municipal port and harbor bond debt-service reimbursement program (AS 29.60.700), increased use of existing statutory authority to fund harbor improvements through watercraft fuel and fisheries business tax revenues (AS 29.60.800), federal transportation and maritime programs, and other braided funding mechanisms; and

BE IT FINALLY RESOLVED that the Alaska Municipal League calls for a sustained State-local partnership that treats ports and harbors not as isolated municipal facilities or occasional capital requests,

but as essential components of the infrastructure necessary to connect Alaska communities, support statewide commerce and industry, and strengthen Alaska's long-term economic and fiscal health.

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

RESOLUTION #2027-08

A RESOLUTION SUPPORTING SUSTAINABLE OPERATIONS AND LIFECYCLE FUNDING FOR ALASKA'S WATER AND WASTEWATER INFRASTRUCTURE

WHEREAS, safe, reliable, and affordable drinking water and wastewater services are essential to public health, housing, economic development, and the long-term viability of Alaska communities; and

WHEREAS, the State of Alaska, federal government, local governments, Tribes, and other partners have made substantial investments in water and wastewater infrastructure throughout Alaska, including in rural and remote communities where construction and replacement costs are exceptionally high; and

WHEREAS, the Alaska Department of Environmental Conservation (DEC) supports safe water and wastewater services statewide through the Drinking Water and Clean Water State Revolving Funds, Village Safe Water, operator training and certification, capacity development, remote maintenance assistance, and other infrastructure and technical-support programs; and

WHEREAS, municipalities, Tribes, and other providers operate a range of systems, including regional and community utilities, piped networks, hauled-water systems, and decentralized infrastructure, each requiring appropriate investment and technical support; and

WHEREAS, substantial State, federal, local, and Tribal infrastructure investments can be sustained only through effective governance, trained operators, responsible financial management, preventive maintenance, asset management, rehabilitation, and eventual replacement; and

WHEREAS, small and remote utilities face high energy, freight, labor, and construction costs, limited customer bases, aging infrastructure, and workforce shortages that can make rates unaffordable even when utilities are responsibly managed; and

WHEREAS, DEC's Affordability Framework identifies the financial burden of water and sewer rates, while restrictions on the use of construction funds for routine operating expenses and differing program eligibility requirements can leave communities without sufficient ongoing support; and

WHEREAS, regional technical assistance, circuit riders, shared operators, and financial-management support can help communities maintain essential services and protect existing public investments;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Alaska Municipal League urges the Governor and Alaska Legislature to provide stable, adequate funding and support for DEC's statewide role in ensuring access to safe drinking water and wastewater services through capital assistance, affordable financing, technical assistance, workforce development, and utility sustainability programs; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that State and federal investments should address the full infrastructure lifecycle, from planning and construction through operations, maintenance, rehabilitation, and replacement, with flexible resources for preventive maintenance, major repairs, emergency response, energy efficiency, remote monitoring, and asset preservation; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that AML supports establishing and sustainably funding a statewide Water and Wastewater Essential Utility Fund, administered by the Alaska Department of Environmental Conservation, to provide ongoing operational and maintenance assistance to community water and

wastewater systems where local revenues cannot reasonably cover essential costs without imposing unaffordable rates, with priority given to communities experiencing high financial burden under DEC's Affordability Framework or a comparable measure; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that AML supports maintaining and expanding complementary water and wastewater assistance programs, including grants, revolving loan funds, Village Safe Water, and technical-support programs, so that municipalities, Tribal communities, and other eligible providers can access support appropriate to their size, system type, and circumstances; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that AML supports reviewing eligibility barriers across these programs, including legislation expanding Village Safe Water eligibility to communities with populations up to 1,500 where a 1,000-person statutory limit currently applies, while preserving other assistance pathways for communities of all sizes; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that AML supports operator training and certification, circuit-rider and remote maintenance programs, shared services, and regional technical, operational, managerial, and financial assistance, with proportionate capacity requirements and a reasonable opportunity to correct deficiencies rather than exclusion from essential infrastructure funding; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that AML urges Congress and relevant federal agencies to complement capital investments with sustainable operations, maintenance, workforce, and technical-assistance funding, and urges State and federal agencies to coordinate funding, reporting, and compliance requirements to reduce unnecessary administrative burdens; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that AML recognizes local utility providers' responsibilities for appropriate rates, sound management, and infrastructure stewardship, while acknowledging that responsible local practices alone cannot overcome the structural costs and affordability challenges faced by many Alaska communities; and

BE IT FINALLY RESOLVED that AML supports a coordinated State, federal, local, and Tribal strategy, backed by an adequately resourced DEC and a range of complementary programs, to ensure that Alaska's water and wastewater systems remain safe, reliable, affordable, and sustainable throughout their useful lives.

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

RESOLUTION #2027-09

A RESOLUTION SUPPORTING A STATE AND FEDERAL ESSENTIAL ACCESS FRAMEWORK FOR RURAL AND REMOTE ALASKA COMMUNITIES

WHEREAS, Alaska's municipalities include communities that are geographically isolated, disconnected from the statewide road system, and dependent upon air, marine, seasonal, or other limited transportation systems for the movement of residents, workers, food, fuel, construction materials, equipment, and essential goods; and

WHEREAS, reliable transportation, energy, communications, housing, water and wastewater systems, public safety infrastructure, and access to community facilities function together as an interconnected system supporting the delivery of essential governmental services; and

WHEREAS, deficiencies in one part of this system can increase the cost or impair the delivery of other essential services, including health care, education, emergency response, utilities, housing development, and economic activity; and

WHEREAS, rural and remote communities face substantially higher costs for construction, freight, fuel, labor, operations, maintenance, and replacement because of geographic isolation, limited transportation access, short construction seasons, small markets, and limited local administrative capacity; and

WHEREAS, federal and State programs often evaluate infrastructure through individual program requirements, population-based formulas, benefit-cost analysis, matching requirements, and competitive funding processes that may not adequately account for the essential nature of infrastructure in small and remote communities; and

WHEREAS, transportation, energy, housing, communications, water and sanitation, and public services are an interconnected system and coordinated investment and reform of federal funding structures affect extremely remote communities; and

WHEREAS, State and federal investments will achieve greater long-term value when they are coordinated around community priorities and consider the combined infrastructure and service needs necessary to sustain viable communities;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Alaska Municipal League supports establishment of a State and federal Essential Access framework for rural and remote Alaska that recognizes reliable access to transportation, energy, communications, housing, water and wastewater, public safety, and other essential infrastructure as fundamental to the delivery of local governmental services; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, transportation funding criteria, match requirements, and project evaluation methods need to account for small populations, geographic isolation, limited infrastructure, and high construction and mobilization costs; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that AML urges Congress, federal agencies, the Governor, and the Alaska Legislature to review funding formulas, benefit-cost methodologies, population thresholds, match requirements, and competitive grant criteria to ensure that they appropriately account for Alaska's geographic isolation, small populations, high construction and mobilization costs, and limited local fiscal and administrative capacity; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that State and federal programs should provide increased flexibility for planning, design, construction, rehabilitation, maintenance, modernization, and replacement of essential infrastructure rather than separating these needs into disconnected funding programs; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that project evaluation should recognize the value of infrastructure necessary to provide essential governmental services even where conventional measures of population, traffic, revenue, or economic return are comparatively low; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that AML supports coordinated State and federal investment strategies that allow transportation, energy, housing, broadband, water and wastewater, public safety, and other infrastructure investments to be planned together where doing so reduces costs and improves community outcomes; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that local governments, Tribes, regional organizations, utilities, and other community institutions should be meaningful partners in identifying priorities and designing investments appropriate to local conditions; and

BE IT FINALLY RESOLVED that AML encourages State and federal agencies to establish pilot programs, interagency agreements, consolidated funding opportunities, and other mechanisms that demonstrate a more coordinated approach to meeting the essential access needs of rural and remote Alaska communities.

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

RESOLUTION #2027-10

A RESOLUTION SUPPORTING BASELINE EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT CAPACITY FOR EVERY COMMUNITY

WHEREAS, Alaskan communities face natural disasters, severe weather, flooding, wildfire, erosion, earthquakes, infrastructure failures, hazardous-material incidents, cyber incidents, and other emergencies that may require immediate local action before State or federal resources can arrive; and

WHEREAS, many small and remote communities have limited personnel, communications capacity, emergency equipment, facilities, planning resources, and administrative capacity available for emergency preparedness and response; and

WHEREAS, Alaska's Code Blue program has supported rural and remote communities in obtaining essential emergency medical equipment and ambulances for more than 25 years, yet State funding has not kept pace with inflation, rising equipment costs, and ongoing replacement needs, limiting local government's ability to maintain reliable emergency medical response capabilities; and

WHEREAS, in many Alaska communities, municipal employees, Tribal governments, volunteer responders, Local Emergency Planning Committees, health providers, utilities, schools, and other community organizations collectively provide the initial governmental response to an emergency; and

WHEREAS, Alaska's Local Emergency Planning Committees (LEPCs) play a critical role in coordinating emergency preparedness, hazardous-materials planning, training, and communication among local governments, emergency responders, and community partners, and the restoration of LEPC funding in 2026 after seven years without grant awards underscores the importance of sustained State investment; and

WHEREAS, effective emergency management requires more than an adopted plan and includes trained personnel, interoperable communications, incident-management capability, emergency operations procedures, evacuation and sheltering plans, continuity of government, resource ordering, mutual aid, equipment, and the ability to obtain reimbursement following an event; and

WHEREAS, building local capacity before an emergency can reduce loss of life and property, improve coordination with State and federal responders, and make disaster response and recovery more effective;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Alaska Municipal League supports a statewide objective that every Alaska community have access to a minimum baseline of emergency-management capability appropriate to its size, risk, geography, and governmental structure; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the State of Alaska, in partnership with local and Tribal governments, should identify practical baseline capabilities that may include:

1. A designated and trained emergency-management point of contact;
2. An actionable emergency operations or small-community emergency response plan;
3. Interoperable and redundant emergency communications;
4. Incident-command and coordination capability;
5. Evacuation, sheltering, and mass-care procedures appropriate to local conditions;
6. Continuity-of-government and continuity-of-operations planning;

7. Mutual-aid and resource-sharing agreements;
8. Basic emergency equipment and access to regional resources;
9. Procedures for documenting costs and obtaining State and federal reimbursement; and
10. Regular training, exercises, and technical assistance;

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that AML supports sustained and increased State funding for the Code Blue program, with funding levels that reflect inflation, equipment replacement costs, and demonstrated community needs, to ensure that rural and remote communities have access to essential emergency medical equipment and maintain reliable emergency response capabilities; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that these expectations should be scalable and should not impose unfunded mandates or unnecessarily complex planning and reporting requirements on small communities; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that AML urges the State and federal government to provide sustained operating support, training, technical assistance, communications investment, equipment funding, and regional coordination necessary to maintain these capabilities between disasters rather than relying principally upon funding available after an event occurs; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that AML supports maintaining and increasing dedicated, recurring State funding for LEPCs, including continued direct grant funding through the Division of Homeland Security and Emergency Management, to support local and regional emergency planning, coordination, training, exercises, and public preparedness, and to ensure that recent funding restorations are sustained in future State budgets; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that regional and hub-and-spoke approaches should be encouraged where communities cannot reasonably maintain every capability independently, including shared emergency-management staff, regional logistics, communications support, mutual aid, and deployable resources; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the State should strengthen mechanisms for coordination among municipalities, Tribes, boroughs, nonprofit organizations, utilities, health providers, school districts, and regional entities before emergencies occur; and

BE IT FINALLY RESOLVED that AML encourages the State of Alaska to work with local and Tribal governments to assess existing community emergency-management capacity, identify critical gaps, and develop a long-term strategy and funding model for achieving and maintaining baseline capability statewide.

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

RESOLUTION #2027-11

A RESOLUTION OF THE ALASKA MUNICIPAL LEAGUE SUPPORTING THE EXCLUSION OF PERSONAL PROPERTY FROM THE FULL VALUE DETERMINATION USED TO CALCULATE REQUIRED LOCAL CONTRIBUTIONS

WHEREAS, Alaska municipalities provide essential public services and rely on a combination of locally generated revenues, state support, and federal funding to meet community needs; and

WHEREAS, AS 14.17.510 directs the Department of Commerce, Community, and Economic Development to determine the full and true value of taxable real and personal property in each city or borough school district for purposes including the Required Local Contribution for public education; and

WHEREAS, under AS 14.17.410(b)(2), the Required Local Contribution is the equivalent of a 2.65-mill levy on the Full Value Determination (FVD), subject to the statutory limit of 45 percent of the district's basic need for the preceding fiscal year; and

WHEREAS, the Office of the State Assessor describes FVD as an equalized measure of municipal property value used in the education funding formula and notes that locally adopted optional exemptions are added back into the FVD calculation; and

WHEREAS, AS 29.45.050(b)(2) authorizes municipalities to partially or totally exempt categories of personal property from taxation, and municipalities vary significantly in whether and how they tax personal property; and

WHEREAS, because personal property remains taxable under state law even when a municipality chooses to exempt it, the current FVD methodology measures taxing authority available under Title 29 rather than only the property actually taxed under local ordinance; and

WHEREAS, personal property may be mobile, may depreciate rapidly, and can require additional inventory, valuation, reporting, and appeal work, so excluding personal property from FVD could provide administrative benefits, particularly for municipalities that do not maintain a personal property tax roll; and

WHEREAS, excluding personal property from FVD would also change the allocation of education costs between municipalities and the State because personal property value would no longer be included in the Required Local Contribution calculation, including in municipalities that continue to tax personal property locally; and

WHEREAS, for illustration, an $8 billion reduction in a district's FVD would reduce the 2.65-mill Required Local Contribution calculation by $21.2 million before application of the 45-percent cap or other formula provisions, with a corresponding increase in state foundation aid if all other factors remained unchanged; and

WHEREAS, the fiscal effect of excluding personal property will vary by municipality depending on the amount and composition of personal property within the jurisdiction and whether the municipality currently taxes or exempts that property; and

WHEREAS, because the proposal is both an assessment-administration issue and a school-funding policy change, its statewide and municipality-by-municipality effects should be evaluated in the context of the education funding formula as a whole; and

WHEREAS, the Alaska Municipal League supports a transparent, consistent, and administratively reasonable basis for determining Required Local Contributions while preserving municipal authority to decide whether and how to tax personal property;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Alaska Municipal League supports legislation amending AS 14.17.510 and other relevant provisions to exclude personal property from the Full Value Determination used to calculate Required Local Contributions for public education; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that any such legislation should preserve municipal authority to tax or exempt personal property and should not condition a municipality's local tax policy on the treatment of personal property within the education funding formula; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that before enactment, the State should provide a statewide and municipality-by-municipality analysis of the estimated changes to FVD, Required Local Contributions, and state foundation aid, including the effects on municipalities that currently tax personal property and those that exempt it; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that AML encourages the State of Alaska to work with municipalities, school districts, mayors, municipal managers, and assessors to evaluate conforming changes, consider the legislation as a whole, and avoid unintended changes elsewhere in the education funding formula.

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

RESOLUTION #2027-12

A RESOLUTION SUPPORTING REFORM, REINVESTMENT, AND LONG-TERM SUSTAINABILITY OF ALASKA'S COMMUNITY ASSISTANCE PROGRAM

WHEREAS, Community Assistance, formerly known as Community Revenue Sharing, represents a decades-long partnership between the State of Alaska and Alaska's municipalities and communities; and

WHEREAS, this partnership recognizes Alaska's unique fiscal structure, including the State's receipt of resource revenues, the limited tax bases available to many communities, and the important role of local governments in delivering essential public services that would otherwise fall to the State or go unmet; and

WHEREAS, Community Assistance provides flexible funding that communities may direct toward locally determined public purposes, including public safety, roads, utilities, administration, infrastructure, emergency response, and other basic services; and

WHEREAS, for many Alaska communities, particularly those with limited economic and tax bases, Community Assistance represents a significant portion of the resources available to maintain basic government operations; and

WHEREAS, the Community Assistance program experienced a significant reduction in funding beginning in the last decade, while the costs of labor, fuel, insurance, utilities, construction, professional services, transportation, and virtually every other component of municipal operations have continued to increase; and

WHEREAS, maintaining nominal Community Assistance distributions without accounting for inflation has resulted in a substantial and continuing loss of purchasing power, requiring communities to reduce services, defer investments, increase local revenues where that capacity exists, or absorb costs that increasingly exceed available resources; and

WHEREAS, the effect of this declining purchasing power is greatest in communities with the least ability to replace lost State support through property taxes, sales taxes, fees, or other locally generated revenues; and

WHEREAS, the current Community Assistance Fund provides for annual distributions based upon a portion of the fund balance, but does not provide a sufficiently durable mechanism by which capitalization and investment earnings can predictably grow the fund and maintain the purchasing power of distributions over time; and

WHEREAS, a sustainable Community Assistance program should be designed not merely to avoid further reductions, but to restore lost purchasing power, provide predictability to local budgeting, and establish a long-term financial structure capable of supporting future generations of Alaska communities; and

WHEREAS, options for accomplishing this purpose could include increased and recurring State capitalization, inflation-adjusted funding targets, retention and reinvestment of earnings, and/or creation of a professionally managed fund or trust whose earnings contribute to future Community Assistance payments; and

WHEREAS, an alternative structure could authorize the Alaska Municipal League, or another qualified entity acting on behalf of participating communities, to manage Community Assistance funds under State law, with principal and earnings invested for long-term benefit and with investment earnings retained to increase the value and sustainability of the fund over time; and

WHEREAS, any such structure should preserve the Community Assistance distribution formula and eligibility established by State law, ensure appropriate fiduciary standards, transparency, independent audit and reporting, and maintain legislative oversight of the program while allowing the fund to benefit from long-term investment management; and

WHEREAS, eligibility for Community Assistance also requires communities to meet financial, administrative, budgeting, reporting, and other requirements intended to provide accountability for public funds; and

WHEREAS, AML supports appropriate accountability for public funds, but recognizes that the administrative capacity necessary to satisfy these requirements varies significantly among Alaska communities, particularly in smaller and more remote municipalities experiencing staff turnover, limited access to accounting professionals, high professional-service costs, or other capacity constraints; and

WHEREAS, in some cases, the cost and administrative burden of meeting financial reporting requirements can consume a significant portion of the Community Assistance payment itself, while failure to meet those requirements may delay or prevent access to resources that could otherwise strengthen the community's financial and administrative capacity; and

WHEREAS, withholding essential operating assistance because a community lacks sufficient financial management capacity can create a cycle in which the communities most in need of assistance have the greatest difficulty qualifying for it; and

WHEREAS, the State and municipalities share an interest in accurate budgets, timely certified financial statements, sound accounting practices, transparent financial reporting, and stronger local financial management systems; and

WHEREAS, AML is positioned through its statewide membership, technical assistance, and municipal financial services to assist communities in developing annual budgets, completing certified financial statements, maintaining appropriate financial records, meeting Community Assistance application requirements, and developing the local capacity necessary for long-term compliance;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Alaska Municipal League calls upon the Governor and Alaska State Legislature to comprehensively reform and reinvest in the Community Assistance Program to restore its purchasing power, increase its value to Alaska communities, and establish a sustainable long-term funding mechanism; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that AML supports capitalization of the Community Assistance Fund at a level sufficient to increase annual distributions above their current level and establishment of a mechanism that protects those distributions against continued erosion from inflation; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that AML supports statutory changes that allow Community Assistance funds to retain and reinvest interest and investment earnings so that the value of the fund can grow over time rather than relying exclusively upon recurring appropriations to maintain its purchasing power; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that, as one option for consideration, the State should authorize an appropriately structured fund administered by the Alaska Municipal League on behalf of Alaska communities, into which State capitalization may be deposited and invested, with interest and investment earnings retained and reinvested for the long-term sustainability of Community Assistance; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that any AML-managed Community Assistance fund would continue to distribute funding consistent with State law, including statutory eligibility and distribution requirements, and would be subject to appropriate fiduciary, investment, accounting, audit, reporting, and transparency requirements; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that Community Assistance reform should review existing eligibility and compliance requirements to eliminate unnecessary duplication, better align requirements with community size and financial capacity, provide reasonable opportunities to cure deficiencies, and ensure that administrative requirements do not consume an unreasonable proportion of the assistance a community receives; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the State should provide funding to AML for technical and administrative assistance to communities that need additional capacity to qualify for and remain compliant with the Community Assistance Program, including assistance with annual budgets, certified financial statements, financial recordkeeping, applications, reporting, accounting practices, and related financial management needs; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that such assistance should be structured to build durable local capacity wherever possible, while recognizing that some communities will continue to require ongoing shared-service support because of their size, location, staffing, or financial circumstances; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that AML encourages the State to establish reasonable corrective-action and technical-assistance processes before Community Assistance payments are withheld for administrative or financial reporting deficiencies, except where necessary to protect against misuse of public funds; and

BE IT FINALLY RESOLVED that the Alaska Municipal League supports a renewed State-local partnership for Community Assistance that combines meaningful reinvestment, long-term financial sustainability, appropriate accountability, and practical assistance to ensure that every eligible Alaska community has both the resources and the administrative capacity necessary to deliver essential public services.

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

RESOLUTION #2027-13

A RESOLUTION URGING THE STATE OF ALASKA TO STABILIZE AND ADEQUATELY FUND K-12 EDUCATION, INFLATION-PROOF THE BASE STUDENT ALLOCATION, PROTECT LOCAL GOVERNMENTS FROM STATE COST SHIFTS, PROVIDE PREDICTABLE SCHOOL CAPITAL FUNDING, AND FULFILL ITS CONSTITUTIONAL RESPONSIBILITY FOR PUBLIC EDUCATION

WHEREAS, Article VII, Section 1 of the Alaska Constitution requires the State to establish and maintain a system of public schools; and

WHEREAS, local governments with education powers play a substantial role in delivering public education, including through required and optional local contributions, while also funding public safety, infrastructure, utilities, and other essential municipal services; and

WHEREAS, education is one of the largest expenditures for municipalities with education responsibilities, and increases in local education obligations can require higher local taxes or reductions in other essential services; and

WHEREAS, the Legislature enacted HB 57 in 2025, increasing the Base Student Allocation (BSA) by $700 to $6,660, providing an important increase in formula funding but not establishing an automatic mechanism to account for future inflation; Alaska State Legislature and

WHEREAS, without regular adjustments for inflation and changes in the cost of providing education, the purchasing power of the BSA can decline over time, creating recurring budget uncertainty for school districts and local governments; and

WHEREAS, predictable, formula-based State funding provides greater certainty than reliance on annual one-time appropriations and allows school districts and municipalities to engage in responsible multi-year budgeting and planning; and

WHEREAS, under AS 14.17.410, municipalities with city or borough school districts are required to make a local contribution toward public education, and Chapter 22, SLA 2026 established that the required local contribution may not increase by more than four percent from the preceding fiscal year, while retaining the existing 2.65-mill calculation and 45-percent limitation; Alaska State Legislature and

WHEREAS, this limitation provides additional predictability for municipalities, but differences in property tax bases, economic conditions, federal land ownership, and local capacity continue to create substantial differences in the ability of communities to support education; and

WHEREAS, federal Impact Aid is provided to compensate school districts affected by the presence of tax-exempt federal property and federally connected students, while Alaska's school funding formula currently considers 90 percent of eligible federal Impact Aid in calculating State aid; Alaska State Legislature and

WHEREAS, AML has consistently maintained that State education policy should not shift an increasing share of the State's constitutional responsibility onto municipalities and local taxpayers, and that communities should retain appropriate flexibility to support their schools according to local circumstances; and

WHEREAS, adequate operating funding alone does not address the significant costs of school construction, major maintenance, energy efficiency, and deferred maintenance throughout Alaska; and

WHEREAS, unpredictable State capital appropriations and the absence of a dependable school bond debt reimbursement program make long-term capital planning more difficult and can shift additional costs and financial risk to municipalities and local taxpayers; and

WHEREAS, predictable State support for school facilities, including a dedicated major-maintenance funding mechanism and a reliable school bond debt reimbursement program, would improve long-term planning and help protect the public investment in school facilities; and

WHEREAS, questions remain regarding the respective responsibilities of the State and local governments for ensuring adequate and equitable funding of public education, including operating costs, school construction, major maintenance, and the extent to which local governments may be required to supplement State funding;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Alaska Municipal League urges the Governor and Alaska Legislature to establish a stable, adequate, and predictable system of K-12 education funding that includes:

1. Increasing and inflation-proofing the Base Student Allocation through a statutory, multi-year adjustment tied to a transparent measure of inflation or education cost growth, with periodic legislative review;

2. Maintaining protections against State cost shifts to municipalities, including the limitation on annual growth in the required local contribution, and opposing increases in mandatory local contributions as a substitute for adequate State funding;

3. Reviewing the required and optional local contribution framework to better account for differences in community tax bases, economic capacity, federal Impact Aid, and other local circumstances, while preserving appropriate local discretion to provide additional support for schools;

4. Establishing predictable funding for school construction and major maintenance, including a dedicated Base Facilities Allocation or comparable formula-based mechanism that considers facility condition, deferred maintenance, rural and logistical costs, and student needs;

5. Restoring a stable and adequately funded school bond debt reimbursement program, with clear eligibility standards, reimbursement percentages, and payment timelines so municipalities and voters can make informed long-term capital decisions; and

6. Providing timely and predictable State appropriations and payments for education obligations so that school districts and municipalities are not required to absorb unexpected State funding reductions or delays.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that changes to the State's education funding system should include meaningful consultation with municipalities and school districts and should identify the fiscal and administrative impacts of proposed changes on local governments, particularly small and rural communities; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Alaska Municipal League supports preserving local flexibility to contribute toward educational opportunities beyond the State's basic obligation, while ensuring that State policy does not require municipalities to assume an increasing share of the cost of meeting the State's constitutional responsibility; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that AML may consider supporting its members in legal action, when appropriate, to clarify the full extent of the State of Alaska's constitutional responsibility to provide adequately and equitably for public education, including school operating costs, construction, and major maintenance, and to clarify the respective obligations of the State and local governments.

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

RESOLUTION #2027-14

A RESOLUTION SUPPORTING A SUSTAINABLE, FLEXIBLE, AND EMPLOYER-RESPONSIVE PUBLIC EMPLOYEE RETIREMENT SYSTEM

WHEREAS, Alaska's municipalities depend on a qualified and stable public workforce to provide essential services, and competitive retirement benefits are an important component of recruiting and retaining that workforce; and

WHEREAS, municipalities face significant workforce recruitment and retention challenges, and Alaska's retirement system should support, rather than impede, the ability of local governments to attract and retain employees; and

WHEREAS, the Alaska Legislature has considered and passed legislation establishing a new defined-benefit retirement option, reflecting continued interest in providing public employees with additional retirement choices; and

WHEREAS, Alaska municipalities have differing workforce needs, financial capacity, employee demographics, and experiences with PERS, and changes to retirement benefits should preserve local control over whether an employer participates in a new retirement tier or benefit structure; and

WHEREAS, municipalities participating in PERS continue to face employer challenges unrelated to the design of a new retirement benefit, including termination-study requirements and costs, penalties and interest on delinquent payments, salary-floor provisions, restrictions affecting retirees returning to work, limited options for reducing employer-specific liabilities, and barriers for small or financially distressed employers seeking to restructure or leave the system; and

WHEREAS, these requirements can reduce employer flexibility, increase costs, and constrain the ability of municipalities to manage their workforce according to changing local conditions; and

WHEREAS, municipal employers have consistently met contribution requirements established by the State while also carrying responsibility for legacy unfunded pension liabilities arising within a retirement system whose actuarial assumptions, investment policies, benefit structures, and administrative requirements are established at the State level; and

WHEREAS, reducing the net pension liability strengthens the long-term financial position of PERS and TRS, protects employees and employers, and ultimately creates greater flexibility for resources to support current workforce needs rather than past liabilities; and

WHEREAS, the Alaska Retirement Management Board has adopted actuarial policies intended to make continued progress toward reducing unfunded liabilities and improving the funded status of the retirement systems; and

WHEREAS, retirement reform should therefore address both employee benefits and the experience of participating employers, while avoiding new or shifted liabilities to municipalities;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Alaska Municipal League supports legislation providing a defined-benefit or similar retirement option that strengthens public-sector recruitment and

retention, provided that municipal employers have a clear option to elect whether or not to participate and that participation does not create or shift unfunded liabilities to nonparticipating municipalities; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that AML urges the Governor and Legislature to pursue comprehensive PERS employer reforms that increase flexibility and reduce unnecessary costs and barriers, including review and reform of termination-study requirements and costs, delinquency interest and penalties, salary-floor provisions, retiree reemployment rules, opportunities for employers to reduce their individual liabilities, and reasonable pathways for small or distressed employers to restructure or discontinue participation; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that any changes to PERS or TRS should preserve the State's responsibility for costs above established non-State employer contribution limits and should not shift existing or new retirement-system liabilities to municipalities; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that AML supports continued State contributions and actuarially responsible funding policies that make sustained progress toward reducing the PERS and TRS net pension liability, consistent with the Alaska Retirement Management Board's current amortization policy and the goal of improving the long-term funded status of the systems; and

BE IT FINALLY RESOLVED that AML encourages the Governor, Legislature, Alaska Retirement Management Board, and participating employers to approach retirement reform as a coordinated effort to achieve three complementary objectives: competitive benefits for employees, manageable and flexible participation for employers, and continued reduction of legacy pension liabilities.

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

RESOLUTION #2027-15

A RESOLUTION REQUESTING THAT THE ALASKA STATE LEGISLATURE MODERNIZE THE SENIOR CITIZEN PROPERTY TAX EXEMPTION TO ALIGN STATE POLICY WITH STATE FUNDING, RESTORE LOCAL DISCRETION, PROTECT SENIORS WITH FINANCIAL NEED, AND PRESERVE APPROPRIATE TREATMENT UNDER THE FULL VALUE DETERMINATION

WHEREAS, AS 29.45.030 requires municipalities that levy a property tax to exempt the first $150,000 of assessed value of the primary residence of qualifying senior citizens and disabled veterans; and

WHEREAS, the Legislature established reimbursement to municipalities for the revenue foregone as a result of the State-mandated exemption, but the State has not funded that reimbursement since FY 97; and

WHEREAS, the $150,000 statutory exemption has not been adjusted over time to reflect inflation or increases in residential property values, reducing the relative value of the benefit to qualifying homeowners. It has remained at $150,000 since 1984; and

WHEREAS, increasing or inflation-adjusting the exemption without State reimbursement would simultaneously increase the benefit established by the State and increase the cost imposed upon municipal governments and other local taxpayers; and

WHEREAS, if the State determines that a minimum level of property tax relief for senior citizens is a statewide public policy priority, the State should bear the cost of that benefit rather than requiring local taxpayers to fund a benefit established by State law; and

WHEREAS, absent State funding, municipalities are best positioned to determine the level and structure of senior property tax relief appropriate to local housing values, tax rates, fiscal capacity, demographics, and community priorities; and

WHEREAS, the existing exemption applies based principally upon age rather than financial need and therefore provides the same statutory exemption regardless of the income or financial circumstances of the qualifying homeowner; and

WHEREAS, the State already administers income-based programs for older Alaskans that could provide an objective means of identifying seniors for whom property taxes present a significant financial burden, without requiring municipalities to independently establish and administer income eligibility systems; and

WHEREAS, municipalities should remain free to provide broader exemptions to seniors based upon locally determined needs and priorities; and

WHEREAS, property subject to the mandatory senior citizen and disabled veteran exemption is excluded from the State's Full Value Determination, thereby recognizing that property which the State prohibits a municipality from taxing should not be treated as available local tax capacity; and

WHEREAS, Full Value Determination is used in determining the required local contribution for public education, and exclusion of mandated exempt property reduces the required local contribution and correspondingly recognizes a greater State responsibility for funding Basic Need; and

WHEREAS, any conversion of the existing mandatory exemption to a local-option or differently structured exemption should not inadvertently increase municipal required local contributions to

education solely because a municipality chooses to continue providing substantially the same property tax relief previously required by State law;

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the Alaska Municipal League requests that the Alaska State Legislature modernize AS 29.45.030 to establish a sustainable and equitable relationship between the State's policy objectives, municipal taxing authority, and responsibility for the cost of property tax exemptions; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that AML recommends consideration of legislation incorporating the following principles:

1. Fund State-mandated benefits. If the State continues to require a minimum senior citizen property tax exemption, the State should fully fund municipal reimbursement for the exemption;
2. Pair inflation adjustments with reimbursement. If the Legislature increases or indexes the statutory exemption to account for inflation or increases in property values, the State should provide reimbursement corresponding to the increased municipal revenue loss;
3. Restore local discretion when State funding is not provided. If the State does not fund the exemption, municipalities should be authorized to determine by ordinance whether to provide a senior citizen exemption and to establish its amount and structure based upon local circumstances;
4. Target any continuing State mandate according to need. As an alternative to a universal mandatory exemption, the Legislature should consider maintaining a State-protected minimum exemption for seniors meeting an objective income or financial-need standard, including possible use of eligibility standards established through the Alaska Senior Benefits Program or a comparable State-administered mechanism, while allowing municipalities to provide broader benefits at local option;
5. Preserve Full Value Determination treatment. Legislation modifying the exemption should preserve appropriate exclusion from Full Value Determination for the statutory baseline exemption, or for an equivalent locally adopted exemption, so that reform of the property tax exemption does not itself increase a municipality's required local contribution for public education; and
6. Preserve local authority. Municipalities should retain the authority to establish exemptions beyond any State-supported minimum, including larger exemptions, inflation-adjusted exemptions, hardship provisions, or other locally appropriate forms of property tax relief.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that AML recognizes the Legislature's legitimate interest in ensuring that the value of senior property tax relief is not eroded over time, but believes that indexing or increasing an unfunded State mandate is not a sustainable solution and that any expansion of a State-established benefit should be accompanied by State funding;

BE IT FINALLY RESOLVED, that the Legislature should structure property tax exemptions according to the principle that statewide benefits established by the State should be funded by the State, while additional benefits reflecting local priorities should be determined and funded locally.

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

RESOLUTION #2027-16

A RESOLUTION SUPPORTING LOCAL CONTROL OF MUNICIPAL PROPERTY TAX EXEMPTIONS AND REQUESTING FULL STATE FUNDING FOR STATE-MANDATED PROPERTY TAX EXEMPTIONS

WHEREAS, Alaska municipalities rely on locally generated revenues, including property taxes, to provide essential public services and meet local and state-mandated responsibilities; and

WHEREAS, property tax exemptions reduce the taxable property base and may shift a greater share of the cost of municipal services to property owners who do not qualify for an exemption; and

WHEREAS, Alaska law establishes both mandatory property tax exemptions under AS 29.45.030 and optional exemptions that municipalities may adopt under AS 29.45.050, reflecting distinct state and local roles in property tax policy; Alaska Department of Commerce

WHEREAS, municipalities are best positioned to evaluate local economic conditions, community priorities, service demands, and the fiscal impacts of optional property tax exemptions when determining whether those exemptions are appropriate for their communities; and

WHEREAS, AS 29.45.030(e) requires municipalities that levy a property tax to exempt the first $150,000 of assessed value of the primary residence of qualifying senior citizens, disabled veterans, and certain surviving spouses; Alaska State Legislature

WHEREAS, AS 29.45.030(g) directs the State to reimburse municipalities for qualifying property tax revenues lost as a result of the exemption; Alaska State Legislature

WHEREAS, the Alaska Legislature has not funded the municipal reimbursement program since FY1997, Tax Year 1996, leaving municipalities to absorb the fiscal impact of a state-required exemption; Alaska Department of Commerce

WHEREAS, in Tax Year 2025, 57,095 senior citizen and disabled veteran exemptions were approved in 24 municipalities, representing more than $8.25 billion in exempt assessed value and approximately $110.3 million in exempt property taxes; Alaska Department of Commerce

WHEREAS, increases in state-mandated property tax exemptions without corresponding state reimbursement further reduce municipal tax bases and transfer the fiscal impact of statewide policy decisions to local taxpayers and local governments; and

WHEREAS, decisions to provide additional or expanded exemptions beyond statewide requirements should appropriately account for local conditions and the ability of individual municipalities to sustain the resulting reduction in their tax base;

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the Alaska Municipal League requests that the Governor and Alaska State Legislature provide sufficient and ongoing funding to reimburse municipalities for the senior citizen and disabled veteran property tax exemption consistent with AS 29.45.030(g); and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that any new or expanded state-mandated municipal property tax exemption should be accompanied by state funding sufficient to offset the resulting municipal revenue impact; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Governor and Alaska State Legislature review existing mandatory municipal property tax exemptions and, where a statewide mandate is not necessary, provide municipalities the authority to determine locally whether and to what extent an exemption should apply; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the State preserve municipal authority to adopt and structure optional property tax exemptions based on local priorities, fiscal capacity, and community needs.

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

RESOLUTION #2027-17

A RESOLUTION SUPPORTING STATE INVESTMENT, COORDINATION, AND LOCAL CAPACITY TO INCREASE HOUSING DEVELOPMENT AND ACCELERATE HOUSING DELIVERY THROUGHOUT ALASKA

WHEREAS, Alaska continues to face a persistent housing shortage, with communities experiencing constrained supply, rising construction costs, overcrowding, and difficulty attracting and retaining workers and families; and

WHEREAS, adequate housing is fundamental to economic development, workforce recruitment and retention, community sustainability, and the ability of businesses and public services to operate throughout Alaska; and

WHEREAS, local governments face significant barriers to housing development, including limited availability of developable land, high costs for water, sewer, roads, utilities and site preparation, complex funding requirements, and delays associated with subdivision, utility, and State permitting processes; and

WHEREAS, public-private partnerships, such as Housing Alaskans, have demonstrated the ability to leverage public and private resources to help housing developments move forward and has supported housing development in communities throughout the state; and

WHEREAS, the State has historically supported housing development through the Alaska Housing Finance Corporation and other financing mechanisms, and enactment of Chapter 8, SLA 2026 expanded the Alaska Industrial Development and Export Authority's ability to finance qualifying workforce housing developments, providing an additional tool for increasing housing supply; and

WHEREAS, access to developable land remains a significant constraint in many Alaska communities, and appropriate transfers, sales, leases, or other mechanisms involving State and federal land can create opportunities for locally driven housing development; and

WHEREAS, coordinated State-local permitting, predictable infrastructure financing, standardized or modular housing designs, and increased local development capacity can reduce barriers to housing construction while maintaining applicable safety, environmental, building-code, and public-process requirements; and

WHEREAS, State housing policies and programs should recognize the different needs and capacities of urban, rural, and remote communities and preserve municipal authority over comprehensive planning, zoning, land use, taxation, and locally adopted development standards;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Alaska Municipal League urges the Governor, Alaska State Legislature, and appropriate State agencies to pursue a coordinated statewide approach to increasing housing supply that complements and strengthens locally identified housing priorities; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, AML supports continued State investment in public-private, State, local, Tribal, and regional housing programs that leverage additional funding and help viable housing projects overcome financing gaps; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, AML encourages the State to make appropriate developable State land available to municipalities and other local housing partners and to work with federal agencies to improve access to federal lands where doing so can advance locally identified housing development; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, AML urges the State to establish and capitalize an infrastructure readiness financing program for water, wastewater, roads, utilities, site preparation, and other infrastructure necessary to unlock buildable land, with flexible grant and financing options that can be combined with federal, local, and private resources; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, AML supports coordinated State-local processes that provide a clear point of contact, allow parallel agency review, establish predictable timelines, and reduce unnecessary duplication in subdivision, utility, right-of-way, environmental, and other State approvals associated with housing development; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, AML supports voluntary tools that can reduce construction costs and increase housing delivery, including pre-approved or standardized residential designs appropriate to Alaska conditions, modular construction, public development partnerships, and local or regional housing authorities, while allowing municipalities to determine which tools are appropriate for their communities; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, State housing initiatives should provide technical assistance and implementation capacity for smaller and rural communities, avoid unfunded mandates and cost shifts to municipalities, and not preempt local planning, zoning, taxation, revenue tools, development standards, or public involvement requirements; and

BE IT FINALLY RESOLVED that AML encourages the State to improve coordination among DCCED, AHFC, AIDEA, DEC, DOT&PF, other relevant agencies, municipalities, Tribal housing entities, and private and nonprofit housing partners, and to regularly report on housing investments, infrastructure projects, permitting timelines, housing units enabled, and geographic distribution of State housing resources.

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

RESOLUTION #2027-18

A RESOLUTION SUPPORTING A LOCALLY DRIVEN, REGIONALLY COORDINATED TRANSPORTATION PLANNING PROCESS THAT RESPECTS LOCAL PRIORITIES AND AVOIDS SHIFTING STATE TRANSPORTATION COSTS AND RESPONSIBILITIES TO LOCAL GOVERNMENTS

WHEREAS, Alaska municipalities own, operate, and maintain transportation infrastructure that is essential to public safety, economic development, access to services, and the movement of people and goods; and

WHEREAS, the State of Alaska, through the Alaska Department of Transportation and Public Facilities (DOT&PF), has primary responsibility for planning, constructing, operating, and maintaining the statewide transportation system and for administering significant federal and State transportation funding; and

WHEREAS, transportation investments are most effective when State decisions are informed by adopted local and regional plans, community priorities, local knowledge, and the governments responsible for serving affected residents and businesses; and

WHEREAS, federal transportation planning is intended to be continuing, cooperative, and comprehensive, including cooperation with Metropolitan Planning Organizations (MPOs) and consultation with local governments in nonmetropolitan areas; and

WHEREAS, Alaska's MPOs provide an established mechanism through which local governments collaboratively establish metropolitan transportation priorities, and their federally established planning roles and locally adopted priorities should be respected in State programming and project development; and

WHEREAS, most of Alaska lies outside an MPO, leaving many rural and regional communities without an equivalent formal structure through which local officials can establish regional transportation priorities and participate consistently in statewide transportation decision-making; and

WHEREAS, Regional Transportation Planning Organizations (RTPOs) can provide nonmetropolitan regions with a systematic means to identify transportation needs, establish regionally appropriate priorities, assist local governments with project development, and participate meaningfully in the statewide transportation planning process; and

WHEREAS, the Alaska Municipal League has previously supported statutory changes and adequate State resources necessary to establish RTPOs in Alaska, recognizing that effective regional planning requires sustained staffing, technical capacity, and meaningful integration into State decision-making; and

WHEREAS, municipalities differ significantly in population, fiscal capacity, staff resources, geography, transportation needs, and ability to develop projects, making early State coordination and technical assistance especially important for small, rural, and remote communities; and

WHEREAS, transparent project evaluation, prioritization, programming, and reprogramming processes strengthen confidence that State and federal transportation investments reflect documented needs, adopted plans, and established criteria; and

WHEREAS, local governments may appropriately choose to own, operate, maintain, sponsor, or financially participate in transportation projects where those responsibilities advance local priorities and are supported by adequate resources; and

WHEREAS, transferring ownership, maintenance obligations, match requirements, project-development costs, administrative responsibilities, or other transportation obligations from the State to a municipality can create substantial long-term fiscal and operational impacts; and

WHEREAS, State transportation policy should not rely on the transfer of State costs, assets, risks, or responsibilities to local governments as a means of balancing State budgets, advancing projects, or accessing federal funding without meaningful consultation, local agreement, and consideration of the municipality's capacity to assume those obligations;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Alaska Municipal League urges the State of Alaska and DOT&PF to maintain a transportation planning and investment process that begins with meaningful local participation, respects adopted local and regional priorities, and clearly defines the respective responsibilities of the State and local governments; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that AML supports continued State action toward establishment and implementation of RTPOs, including any necessary statutory or regulatory changes and sufficient funding for staffing, planning, technical assistance, project development, and sustained participation by local governments; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that AML urges DOT&PF to recognize MPOs as essential transportation planning partners, respect their federally established authorities and locally adopted processes, and work through rather than around MPO-established priorities when programming, developing, modifying, or advancing projects within metropolitan planning areas; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that for areas outside MPOs, DOT&PF should provide local governments and emerging RTPOs early, continuous, and substantive opportunities to identify needs, establish priorities, participate in project scoping, and understand how projects advance through State planning and programming processes; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that DOT&PF should:

1. Align investment with local and regional priorities by giving meaningful consideration to adopted municipal, Tribal, regional, transportation, capital improvement, safety, economic development, and other relevant plans;
2. Increase transparency and predictability by clearly communicating project evaluation criteria, scoring, funding decisions, project changes, cost increases, programming decisions, and significant STIP amendments affecting local priorities;
3. Provide technical assistance proportionate to community capacity, particularly for rural and remote municipalities, including assistance with project scoping, cost estimation, federal eligibility, environmental requirements, applications, matching requirements, and project delivery;
4. Preserve appropriate local decision-making, including MPO authority and the ability of regional organizations to develop priorities and evaluation approaches responsive to regional circumstances within applicable State and federal requirements;

5. Clearly identify lifecycle responsibilities before project advancement, including ownership, operations, maintenance, match, replacement, reporting, and other long-term obligations so that local governments can make informed decisions regarding participation; and

6. Avoid unfunded transfers of responsibility by not conditioning transportation investment on a municipality accepting State assets, maintenance obligations, project-development costs, administrative duties, financial risk, or other responsibilities unless the local government affirmatively agrees and adequate resources accompany the transfer.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that where the State seeks municipal ownership, sponsorship, match, maintenance, or other participation in a transportation project, AML encourages the use of negotiated agreements that clearly establish responsibilities, funding, performance expectations, asset condition, and long-term costs before responsibilities are transferred; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that State transportation planning regulations, policies, program guidance, and investment decisions should reinforce — rather than undermine — locally adopted planning processes and should recognize that strengthening local and regional planning capacity improves the quality of Alaska's statewide transportation system; and

BE IT FINALLY RESOLVED, that the Alaska Municipal League will continue to work with DOT&PF, MPOs, regional organizations, Tribal governments, and municipalities to develop an Alaska transportation planning framework in which State, regional, and local roles are clear; communities have a meaningful voice in decisions affecting them; and transportation investments are advanced through partnership rather than through the unilateral transfer of costs or responsibilities.

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

RESOLUTION #2027-19

A RESOLUTION CALLING FOR ALASKA LNG DEVELOPMENT TO PROTECT MUNICIPAL INTERESTS, ADDRESS COMMUNITY IMPACTS, AND DELIVER LASTING LOCAL BENEFITS

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, public safety, and other municipal services; and

WHEREAS, Glenfarne Alaska LNG is now the lead private developer of the Alaska LNG project, with the State of Alaska, through the Alaska Gasline Development Corporation (AGDC), retaining a minority ownership interest, and the project is being advanced in separate phases consisting of an initial North Slope-to-Southcentral natural gas pipeline and a subsequent LNG export phase; and Alaska Gasline Development Corporation

WHEREAS, project development advanced during 2026 through conditional construction awards, line-pipe supply arrangements, and natural gas supply and in-state offtake agreements, increasing the importance of resolving State and local fiscal, infrastructure, and community-impact issues before construction proceeds; and Glenfarne Group

WHEREAS, during 2026 the Governor and Legislature considered multiple proposals to alter the State and municipal property-tax treatment of Alaska LNG, including temporary tax abatement and an alternative volumetric tax, along with municipal revenue allocations, community-impact funding, and project reporting requirements, but no new Alaska LNG tax framework was enacted; and Constant Contact

WHEREAS, local governments will bear front-line impacts from construction and operations, including traffic and road wear, port and harbor use, public-safety demand, workforce housing pressure, land-use and permitting responsibilities, and utility and public-facility needs; and

WHEREAS, clear and enforceable commitments developed with affected municipalities are necessary to address those impacts and ensure that State support for Alaska LNG produces measurable and durable benefits for Alaska communities; and

WHEREAS, municipal taxing authority, local planning and permitting authority, and predictable revenues are essential to maintaining the public services upon which residents, businesses, and major development projects depend.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Alaska Municipal League supports continued progress toward an economically viable Alaska LNG project that improves energy reliability and affordability for Alaskans and urges the Governor, Legislature, AGDC, and project developers to incorporate a transparent and enforceable municipal framework into any State financial, tax, statutory, regulatory, or administrative support for the project, including at minimum the following:

1. Reestablish Municipal Representation in Project Decisions. Reestablish or reconvene the Municipal Advisory Gas Project Review Board, or establish an equivalent standing body with meaningful representation from affected municipalities, to advise the Governor and

Legislature on project taxation, community impacts, infrastructure needs, revenue allocation, and mitigation measures before State fiscal terms are finalized.

2. Protect Municipal Revenue and Taxing Authority. Preserve existing municipal taxing authority and ensure that any project-specific tax exemption, abatement, payment-in-lieu-of-taxes arrangement, volumetric tax, revenue-sharing mechanism, or other alternative to existing oil and gas property taxation provides affected municipalities with predictable and sufficient revenues to meet project-related and ongoing service demands. Municipalities must be directly involved in development of any replacement framework, and any project-specific tax treatment should be narrowly tailored so that it does not establish unintended precedent for other municipal taxpayers or infrastructure.
3. Provide Upfront Community Impact Funding. Establish dedicated, multi-year funding available before and during construction for documented and reasonably anticipated impacts on ports and harbors, roads, emergency response, law enforcement, utilities, housing, public facilities, planning, and other municipal services. Eligibility should reflect demonstrated project impacts and should include affected host, corridor, terminal, and other communities rather than relying solely on proximity to the pipeline.
4. Require Transparent Reporting and Oversight. Provide regular public reporting on project schedule and construction milestones, State and municipal fiscal exposure, municipal revenues, community-impact funding, in-state gas deliveries, workforce participation, local contracting, infrastructure commitments, and mitigation measures, together with a process for municipalities to identify unresolved impacts and seek timely resolution.
5. Develop Alaska's Workforce and Businesses. In cooperation with local governments, the University of Alaska, AVTEC, school districts, Tribes, labor organizations, training providers, and employers, establish coordinated apprenticeship, pre-apprenticeship, and workforce-development programs and maximize opportunities for qualified Alaska residents, Alaska businesses, local contractors, and Tribally owned businesses consistent with applicable law.
6. Ensure In-State Gas Access and Predictable Pricing. Provide transparent and reliable opportunities for municipal utilities, public facilities, and community energy systems to access natural gas where technically and economically feasible, including necessary offtake and lateral infrastructure, with pricing structures sufficiently predictable to support long-term municipal and utility planning.
7. Protect Local Authority and Avoid Unfunded Mandates. Respect municipal home-rule and general-law authority, local land-use planning and permitting, and applicable environmental and safety requirements. Any project-driven requirement that creates additional municipal costs should include a corresponding funding mechanism and should not result in an unfunded mandate or unnecessary State preemption of local authority.
8. Address Each Project Phase Before Final Investment Decisions. Municipal fiscal agreements, impact-mitigation commitments, infrastructure obligations, and community-benefit measures applicable to each phase of Alaska LNG should be substantially resolved before or concurrent with the applicable Phase One or Phase Two Final Investment Decision and funded sufficiently in advance of peak construction impacts.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that AML urges AGDC and relevant State agencies to negotiate municipal fiscal and community-impact provisions concurrently with commercial project agreements and urges Glenfarne, 8 Star Alaska, and other project participants to engage directly with affected local governments as project design, financing, construction, and operation advance; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that any legislation establishing special tax treatment for Alaska LNG should clearly identify the State and municipal fiscal consequences, provide transparent modeling of anticipated revenues, include periodic legislative and municipal review, and ensure that project tax treatment does not unintentionally reduce State education support or otherwise shift project costs onto local taxpayers; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that State infrastructure investments associated with Alaska LNG—including roads, ports, utilities, housing, and public facilities—should be coordinated with affected municipalities and reflect locally identified capital and operational needs; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that AML will continue to convene affected municipalities, communicate shared municipal priorities to the State and project developers, support coordinated corridor planning and workforce readiness, and assist communities in evaluating fiscal, infrastructure, and service impacts associated with Alaska LNG.

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

RESOLUTION #2027-20

A RESOLUTION CALLING FOR FACT-BASED DIALOGUE ON THE FUTURE OF ALASKA FISHERIES AND COASTAL COMMUNITIES

WHEREAS, Southwest Alaska is one of the most important seafood-producing regions in the United States, home to four of the nation's top fishing ports and a seafood industry that contributes nearly 70 percent of Alaska's seafood processing output, supports thousands of jobs, and generates the majority of Alaska's shared fisheries tax revenues; and

WHEREAS, between 2015 and 2024, economic activity in Southwest Alaska communities generated approximately 75 percent of all shared fisheries tax revenues in Alaska, demonstrating the region's critical contribution to local governments and the State of Alaska; and

WHEREAS, the economic health of Southwest Alaska is directly tied to the continued sustainability of Alaska's fisheries and the marine, fuel, and supply chain systems that leverage the economy of scale from our fisheries to serve our communities; and

WHEREAS, public debate regarding Alaska fisheries increasingly includes proposals that could significantly affect fishing families, seafood workers, processors, local governments, Alaska Native communities, and coastal economies, often without full consideration of the economic, social, and cultural consequences of such actions; and

WHEREAS, the long-term success of Alaska's fisheries depends upon management systems that continuously improve through rigorous scientific research, stock assessment, ecosystem monitoring, transparency, accountability, and meaningful engagement with the communities most directly affected by management decisions; and

WHEREAS, Southwest Alaska communities possess generations of local knowledge and practical experience that complement scientific research and contribute to effective stewardship of Alaska's marine resources;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the undersigned communities of Southwest Alaska reaffirm their support for fisheries management that is science-based, adaptive, transparent, accountable, inclusive, and committed to continuous improvement as environmental, economic, and social conditions evolve;

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that management decisions should consider both biological sustainability and the economic and social impacts on fishing families, seafood workers, processors, Alaska Native communities, local governments, and the broader statewide economy supported by Alaska fisheries; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that state and federal fisheries policies should recognize the inseparable relationship between healthy fish stocks and healthy fishing communities and should be developed in partnership with the communities whose economies, cultures, and futures depend upon sustainable fisheries; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that Alaska's policymakers and management agencies should prioritize investments in fisheries research, stock assessment, climate and ecosystem science, seafood market

development, workforce development, transportation and infrastructure systems that support sustainable fisheries and resilient coastal communities; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the communities of Southwest Alaska call upon all candidates for public office, policymakers, advocacy organizations, and Alaskans to engage in informed, respectful, and fact-based dialogue regarding the future of Alaska fisheries and to carefully consider the impacts of proposed policies on the communities, workers, families, and businesses that depend upon continued access to sustainably managed fisheries resources; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that meaningful public discussion about Alaska fisheries should be grounded in science, informed by the experiences of fishing communities, and focused on solutions that sustain both marine resources and the people who depend upon them; and

BE IT FINALLY RESOLVED that copies of this resolution be transmitted to the Governor of Alaska, members of the Alaska Legislature, Alaska's Congressional Delegation, the Alaska Board of Fisheries, the North Pacific Fishery Management Council, the Alaska Department of Fish and Game, municipal governments, tribal organizations, and all candidates for statewide and federal office in Alaska.

SUBMITTED BY: SOUTHWEST ALASKA MUNICIPAL CONFERENCE
RESOLUTIONS COMMITTEE ACTION:
BUSINESS COMMITTEE ACTION:

RESOLUTION #2027-21

A RESOLUTION SUPPORTING LEGISLATIVE CHANGES TO THE ALASKA PUBLIC RECORDS ACT TO MODERNIZE MUNICIPAL PUBLIC RECORDS PROCESSES AND PERMIT REASONABLE COST RECOVERY

WHEREAS, the Alaska Public Records Act seeks to promote transparency in government by requiring municipalities to respond to requests for public information; and

WHEREAS, local governments across Alaska face increasing administrative burdens from high-volume, commercial, blanket, and out-of-state public records requests, which consume limited staff resources and impede essential public services; and

WHEREAS, current statute permits up to five hours of staff time monthly per requester before fees may be assessed, a structure that commercial data and media firms exploit at the expense of municipalities and the public; and

WHEREAS, Alaska law provides limited clarity regarding allowable fees, redaction time, and cost-recovery mechanisms, resulting in inconsistent statewide practices and financial strain on municipalities; and

WHEREAS, many states and federal guidelines, including the U.S. Office of Management and Budget's Commercial Use Requester category, recognize that commercial requesters impose distinct burdens and should be subject to differentiated fee structures; and

WHEREAS, modernizing the Alaska Public Records Act to clarify municipal authority to charge reasonable, cost-based fees, better differentiate between individual and commercial requesters, and establish clearer standards for processing requests would strengthen municipal capacity while preserving public access.

BE IT FINALLY RESOLVED that the Alaska Municipal League supports amendments to the Alaska Public Records Act to:

1. Authorize municipalities to assess reasonable, cost-based fees reflecting the actual personnel time required to search, review, redact, and produce public records, regardless of the total hours involved;
2. Establish a distinct fee category for commercial and repeat requesters, consistent with federal OMB guidelines;
3. Provide clearer statutory procedures for redaction, segregation of exempt and non-exempt information, and communication of timelines; and
4. Reduce the administrative burden on municipalities while maintaining transparency and equitable public access.

SUBMITTED BY: CITY OF FAIRBANKS
RESOLUTIONS COMMITTEE ACTION:
BUSINESS COMMITTEE ACTION:

RESOLUTION #2027-22

A RESOLUTION SUPPORTING STATEWIDE REGULATION OF ELECTRIC-ASSISTED BICYCLES

WHEREAS, electric-assisted bicycles and similar devices are increasingly common across Alaska's communities, leading to confusion among riders, pedestrians, law enforcement, and municipalities regarding what is legal and where these devices may be safely operated; and

WHEREAS, the lack of clear statewide standards places both riders and local governments in a difficult position, forcing communities to develop piecemeal regulations that may inadvertently create barriers for responsible riders or lead to inconsistent enforcement; and

WHEREAS, a prior effort to establish statewide definitions and operating rules for electric-assisted bicycles was vetoed, leaving Alaska without the clarity that residents, municipalities, and enforcement agencies continue to request; and

WHEREAS, the Fairbanks community has expressed a range of concerns, including confusion about whether certain devices are legal on sidewalks, pathways, and roadways; frustration with inconsistent rules between cities, the borough, and the state; a desire for clear definitions that distinguish low-speed e-bikes used for commuting from high-powered devices capable of motorcycle-level speeds; concerns for pedestrian safety on shared paths; and the belief that Alaskans should be able to enjoy e-bikes freely and responsibly-without fear of unintentionally violating unclear or inconsistent laws; and

WHEREAS, many community members have voiced support for statewide standards precisely because they reduce unnecessary government overreach at the local level, ensuring consistency and protecting personal freedom while still allowing cities to address unique local needs when appropriate; and

WHEREAS, a statewide framework would provide Alaskans the freedom to ride responsibly without navigating a patchwork of local ordinances, while also supporting public safety and reducing conflict on shared public spaces; and

WHEREAS, the Alaska Municipal League serves as the unified voice for Alaska's municipalities, and clear statewide regulation of electric-assisted bicycles aligns with AML's mission to promote effective, limited, and consistent governance across Alaska; and

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED the Alaska Municipal Leage urges the Alaska State Legislature to adopt reasonable, statewide regulations for electric-assisted bicycles, including clear definitions and operating rules, to ensure consistency, fairness, and safety for all Alaskans.

SUBMITTED BY: THE CITY OF FAIRBANKS
RESOLUTIONS COMMITTEE ACTION:
BUSINESS COMMITTEE ACTION

RESOLUTION #2027-23

A RESOLUTION OF THE ALASKA ASSOCIATION OF HARBORMASTERS AND PORT ADMINISTRATORS SUPPORTING FULL FUNDING ($20,636,306) FOR THE STATE OF ALASKA MUNICIPAL HARBOR FACILITY GRANT PROGRAM IN THE FY 2028 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 Haines, Juneau, Kake, Ketchikan, Kodiak, Unalaska, and Wrangell have committed to contribute half of their project cost in local match funding for FY2028 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

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

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Alaska Association of Harbormasters and Port Administrators urges full funding by the Governor and the Alaska Legislature for the State of Alaska's Municipal Harbor Facility Grant Program in the FY 2028 State Capital Budget in order to ensure enhanced safety and economic prosperity among Alaskan coastal communities.

SUBMITTED BY: ALASKA ASSOCIATION OF HARBORMASTERS & PORT ADMINISTRATORS
RESOLUTIONS COMMITTEE ACTION:
BUSINESS COMMITTEE ACTION

RESOLUTION #2027-24

A RESOLUTION REQUESTING THE ALASKA CONGRESSIONAL DELEGATION SUPPORT RESTORATION OF FEDERAL FUNDING FOR ANNUAL MAINTENANCE DREDGING AT ALASKA'S FEDERALLY AUTHORIZED NAVIGATION PROJECTS

WHEREAS, Alaska has approximately 33,900 miles of coastline, more than one-third of the total shoreline of the United States, yet only approximately 47 municipal ports and harbors, making each harbor an essential part of Alaska's transportation system and way of life; and

WHEREAS, Alaska's coastal and river communities are connected to the nation's transportation network through the United States Marine Highway System, including coastal waters and major rivers that support maritime commerce and the movement of goods; and

WHEREAS, the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers conducts annual maintenance dredging at federally authorized navigation projects in Anchorage, Dillingham, Homer, Ninilchik, and Nome to maintain navigation channels at their authorized dimensions; and

WHEREAS, the Corps' mission is to provide safe, reliable, efficient, and effective waterborne transportation systems for the movement of commerce, national security needs, and recreation; and

WHEREAS, the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Alaska District, carries out its navigation mission at Homer Harbor through annual maintenance dredging to maintain the navigation channel at federally authorized depths and widths, supporting safe, reliable, and efficient vessel access; and

WHEREAS, these are established federal navigation projects, not requests for new construction or expanded facilities, and annual maintenance dredging is necessary to maintain reliable navigation and fulfill the Corps' mission; and

WHEREAS, the Fiscal Year 2027 federal budget request does not provide funding for annual maintenance dredging at Dillingham, Homer, Ninilchik, and Nome; and

WHEREAS, the need for maintenance dredging does not disappear when funding is deferred. Sediment continues to accumulate, reducing channel depth and capacity, while deferred maintenance can ultimately increase the cost and difficulty of restoring a navigation channel to its authorized dimensions; and

WHEREAS, harbors such as Ninilchik, Dillingham, and Nome are located at river mouths where sediment buildup can rapidly affect navigability, underscoring the importance of annual maintenance dredging; and

WHEREAS, Alaska's limited number of public harbors makes reliable navigation essential to commercial fishing, freight, transportation, marine commerce, emergency response, to the coastal and riverine communities that depend upon them;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Alaska Municipal League respectfully requests the Alaska Congressional Delegation support restoration of Fiscal Year 2027 federal funding for annual maintenance dredging at Dillingham, Homer, Ninilchik, and Nome, support their inclusion in the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers Fiscal Year 2027 work plan, and support continued annual maintenance of Alaska's federally authorized navigation projects as an ongoing federal responsibility.

SUBMITTED BY: ALASKA ASSOCIATION OF HARBORMASTERS & PORT ADMINISTRATORS
RESOLUTIONS COMMITTEE ACTION:
BUSINESS COMMITTEE ACTION

RESOLUTION #2027-25

A RESOLUTION SUPPORTING THE ALASKA COMMUNITY HARBOR OVERHAUL AND RECAPITALIZATION (ANCHOR) INITIATIVE

WHEREAS, Alaska's municipally owned harbors are essential public infrastructure supporting commercial fishing, transportation, freight, public safety, and coastal economies; and

WHEREAS, AAHPA and the Alaska Department of Transportation established the Municipal Harbor Facility Grant Program in 2006 to provide a 50/50 state-local partnership for municipal harbor infrastructure, but the program has been fully funded only twice in approximately twenty years; and

WHEREAS, aging harbor infrastructure, rising construction costs, and limited grant funding have created a growing need for additional capital and gap funding to replace worn-out floats, pilings, gangways, utilities, and other essential facilities; and

WHEREAS, the Denali Commission can receive and administer eligible federal funds for projects in Alaska, providing an established mechanism that can reduce the administrative burden on small communities; and

WHEREAS, AAHPA has developed the Alaska Community Harbor Overhaul and Recapitalization initiative (ANCHOR) to complement existing harbor grant programs and establish a pathway to direct eligible federal resources toward Alaska's municipal harbor infrastructure, potentially including assistance with required local matching funds where permitted; and

WHEREAS, federal projects and programs periodically have funds become available through project completion, savings, cancellations, or other changes, and Section 311 of the Denali Commission Act provides a pathway for eligible federal funds to be transferred to the Denali Commission for authorized activities in Alaska; and

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that AAHPA supports the ANCHOR initiative and will work with Alaska's Congressional Delegation and its partners to identify and pursue eligible federal funding opportunities for Alaska's municipal harbor infrastructure.

SUBMITTED BY: ALASKA ASSOCIATION OF HARBORMASTERS & PORT ADMINISTRATORS
RESOLUTIONS COMMITTEE ACTION:
BUSINESS COMMITTEE ACTION

RESOLUTION #2027-26

A RESOLUTION OF THE ALASKA ASSOCIATION OF HARBORMASTERS AND PORT ADMINISTRATORS IN SUPPORT OF RAISING THE MAXIMUM AVAILABLE ALASKA DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION HARBOR FACILITY GRANT TO $7,500,000 FOR ELIGIBLE PROJECTS ON AN ANNUAL BASIS

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 the Alaska Municipal League 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 OF HARBORMASTERS & PORT ADMINISTRATORS
RESOLUTIONS COMMITTEE ACTION:
BUSINESS COMMITTEE ACTION

RESOLUTION #2027-27

A RESOLUTION IN SUPPORT OF A STATEWIDE SPAY AND NEUTER PROGRAM

WHEREAS, Communities across Alaska face ongoing challenges related to pet overpopulation, animal welfare, and the financial burden of sheltering unwanted animals; and

WHEREAS, Spaying and neutering are effective, humane methods for reducing stray populations, shelter intake, euthanasia rates, and associated public health concerns; and

WHEREAS, Expanding access to affordable sterilization services funded through specialty license plate sales and Pick.Click.Give. contributions would help reduce the financial burden on municipalities, nonprofit organizations, and taxpayers; and

WHEREAS, A statewide program would provide resources and technical support to strengthen local animal safety and welfare efforts; and

WHEREAS, The Alaska Municipal League supports policies that strengthen local governments' ability to protect public health, safety, and welfare; and a statewide spay and neuter program would assist municipalities in addressing animal overpopulation and related community impacts.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Alaska Municipal League supports the creation of a statewide spay and neuter program implemented in collaboration with municipalities, veterinarians, and animal welfare organizations.

SUBMITTED BY: FAIRBANKS NORTH STAR BOROUGH
RESOLUTIONS COMMITTEE ACTION:
BUSINESS COMMITTEE ACTION

Carryforward Resolutions

For Member Review

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.

3. Support address modernization by assisting communities with E-911 addressing, GIS address-point creation, and MAF/TIGER updates; provide technical assistance and software/training to small jurisdictions.

4. Recruit and retain local enumerators, including differential pay for remote duty, travel/per diem support, and partnerships with workforce programs and the University/AVTEC to build a statewide "Census-ready" hiring pool.

5. Coordinate Remote Alaska operations (with Tribes, boroughs, and communities) to align enumeration timing and logistics with winter/spring access windows and local events, and to ensure culturally appropriate language access.

6. Expand digital access for Census response, including pop-up Wi-Fi hotspots and public kiosks, leveraging ongoing State broadband investments and planning committees.

7. Provide legal and technical support for boundary/annexation updates, group-quarters enumeration, and post-enumeration review processes appropriate to Alaska's needs; and

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

1. Adapt operations for Alaska, including flexible enumeration schedules; robust local hiring; language services (translation and interpretation with Alaska Native languages); expanded group-quarters protocols; and village-based logistics support.

2. Fund cooperative agreements with the State and local/Tribal governments for outreach, translation, and rural logistics; provide early, predictable grant windows sized to Alaska's travel and shipping realities.

3. Improve address-file and feedback tools (MAF/TIGER) and training (e.g., GUPS), simplify submission for small governments, and create a dedicated Small-Jurisdiction Help Desk for Alaska.

4. Ensure strong post-enumeration remedies, including timely Count Question Resolution and group quarters review windows, with clear guidance tailored to remote and seasonal housing contexts; and

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

Adopted by the majority of AML members at the Annual Business Meeting, December 12, 2025.

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

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

WHEREAS, AML proposes clarifying amendments to AS 29.45.030, including: •

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

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

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

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

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

Adopted by the majority of AML members at the Annual Business Meeting, December 12, 2025.

RESOLUTION #2026-10
A RESOLUTION SUPPORTING FACILITY MAINTENANCE WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT TO BUILD ALASKA'S PUBLICSECTOR 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.

3. Expand regional and mobile training ("circuit-rider" model) - Fund itinerant instructors and short, intensive modules (e.g., boilers, controls, electrical troubleshooting) delivered in hub communities, paired with online theory and on-the-job mentoring.
4. Stand up a statewide public-facility data project - Conduct a Public Facilities Asset & Condition Survey and maintain an "Infrastructure Health Index" for municipal and tribal facilities to quantify backlog, guide workforce sizing, and target funds.
5. Incentivize hiring, training, and retention - Create a Maintenance Workforce Grant/Match for municipal apprenticeships, tuition support/loan forgiveness for FMTs serving in Alaska public roles, and authorize a small training set-aside in capital appropriations to build the workforce that will maintain new assets.
6. Pilot regional shared-service maintenance teams - Launch regional maintenance teams (borough/tribal consortia) to rotate through multiple communities, perform preventive maintenance, and mentor local hires - modeled on RMW success.
7. Elevate asset management and preventive maintenance - Embed asset-management practices and preventive maintenance policies in local governance and procurement, with templates, training, and technical assistance for small communities; and

BE IT FINALLY RESOLVED that AML will convene partners for an annual Alaska Facilities Maintenance Summit, maintain a resource hub for practitioners, and assist members in launching apprenticeships and adopting the FMT credential - so that Alaska's public infrastructure is protected by a strong, locally rooted maintenance workforce.

Adopted by the majority of AML members at the Annual Business Meeting, December 12, 2025.

RESOLUTION #2026-11
A RESOLUTION CALLING ON U.S. 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 U.S. Congress and the Administration to enact legislation and administrative actions that:

1. Reinstate 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 Arctic/permafrost conditions, so small communities without formal code enforcement can still qualify for enhanced cost shares when they build to resilient standards. 6. Increase field presence and transparency by

strengthening FEMA's Alaska Area Office capacity, expanding technical assistance to rural communities, and maintaining public IA/PA dashboards that show application status, obligations, disbursements, and reasons for delay; and

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

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

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

Adopted by the majority of AML members at the Annual Business Meeting, December 12, 2025.

RESOLUTION #2026-13

A RESOLUTION URGING THE FEDERAL AND STATE GOVERNMENTS TO MITIGATE THE IMPACTS OF FEDERAL FUNDING REDUCTIONS, COST SHIFTS, AND PROGRAM CHANGES AFFECTING PUBLIC MEDIA, LIBRARIES, SCHOOLS, RURAL HEALTH, AND PUBLIC ASSISTANCE

WHEREAS, Alaska's communities rely on federally supported public media, libraries, K–12 programs, rural health care, and public assistance that are especially important in a vast, high-cost state where many communities are rural, remote, and not connected to the road system; and

WHEREAS, the federal Rescissions Act of 2025 rescinded funding previously appropriated to the Corporation for Public Broadcasting (CPB) for fiscal years 2026 and 2027, creating ongoing funding challenges for Alaska public media stations that provide local news, emergency information, and communications to rural and remote communities; GovInfo and

WHEREAS, federal support through the Institute of Museum and Library Services (IMLS) and the Library Services and Technology Act (LSTA) continues to provide core capacity for Alaska's library system, with the Alaska State Library receiving $1,274,727 in FY2026 to support access to information, lifelong learning, and statewide library services; Institute of Museum and Library Services and

WHEREAS, Alaska's federally supported community health centers served 113,867 patients in 2025, including more than 38,000 Medicaid and CHIP patients, demonstrating the continuing importance of federal health funding to the delivery of care throughout the state; HRSA Data and

WHEREAS, the federal Rural Health Transformation Program provides a significant but time-limited new investment in rural health care, with Alaska receiving approximately $272.2 million in its first program year as part of a five-year federal initiative, while communities continue to rely on ongoing Medicaid, HRSA, Indian Health Service, and other federal health programs; Alaska Department of Health and

WHEREAS, federal Impact Aid remains an important source of support for Alaska school districts serving federally connected students and communities, and interruptions or delays in federal appropriations can affect the timing of payments relied upon for school operations; Impact Aid Grant System and

WHEREAS, connectivity for Alaska schools and libraries continues to depend upon the federal E-Rate program, which offsets the exceptionally high cost of broadband and telecommunications in rural and remote communities, and the Federal Communications Commission determined that sufficient funding was available to fully fund eligible E-Rate requests for funding year 2026; FCC Docs and

WHEREAS, federal changes to the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) increase the State share of program administrative costs from 50 percent to 75 percent beginning in FY2027, and establish additional state cost-sharing for SNAP benefits beginning in FY2028 based on payment error rates, while providing limited waiver authority for noncontiguous states such as Alaska; these changes represent a significant new state fiscal and administrative responsibility; Congress.gov and

WHEREAS, reductions, rescissions, delays, or cost shifts in federal programs can have disproportionate impacts in Alaska, where high transportation and operating costs, limited economies of scale, and reliance on regional and tribal service-delivery systems make it difficult to replace federal funding locally.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Alaska Municipal League urges the United States Congress and the Administration to:

1. Sustain and, where funding has been reduced or rescinded, restore stable federal investment in public media, libraries and IMLS/LSTA, Impact Aid, Title I, E-Rate, Head Start and early learning, rural health programs including HRSA and IHS, and nutrition assistance programs including SNAP and WIC;

2. Avoid shifting federal program costs to states and local governments without adequate funding and transition periods, and provide Alaska-appropriate exemptions, waivers, and implementation flexibility where authorized;

3. Provide rural set-asides and Alaska-appropriate program flexibility that recognize high transportation and logistics costs, sparse infrastructure, limited local administrative capacity, and regional and tribal service-delivery models; and

4. Maintain timely obligation and disbursement of grants, payments, and benefits and provide adequate technical assistance so that states, local governments, school districts, tribes, and community organizations can plan effectively and avoid service interruptions or cash-flow disruptions.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the State of Alaska should mitigate the impacts of federal reductions and cost shifts on essential community services by:

1. Establishing or maintaining a Public Media Bridge Fund to help preserve emergency communications, rural broadcasting, and local news capacity affected by the loss of federal CPB support;

2. Providing state match, bridge funding, or gap assistance when necessary to maintain LSTA-supported statewide library services, interlibrary loan, and services provided by small and rural libraries;

3. Leveraging the Rural Health Transformation Program to strengthen long-term rural health capacity while maintaining a state contingency mechanism to address disruptions or gaps in essential rural health services that cannot be addressed through that program;

4. Providing temporary assistance when significant federal funding delays or reductions threaten school operations, including Impact Aid-dependent districts and E-Rate-supported broadband connections;

5. Providing sufficient state resources to meet increased federal SNAP administrative responsibilities, pursuing available federal waivers and Alaska-specific flexibilities, and maintaining continuity of food assistance and distribution in communities where federal changes could otherwise disrupt access; and

6. Monitoring federal funding reductions, rescissions, delays, and cost shifts and evaluating their cumulative impacts on State and local budgets before transferring additional responsibilities to municipalities.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that State responses to federal funding changes should respect municipal authority, avoid restricting local revenue tools, and avoid imposing unfunded mandates, and that State assistance should be developed in partnership with local governments, tribes, school districts, and regional organizations to reflect local needs and priorities.

BE IT FINALLY RESOLVED that AML will coordinate member input, compile Alaska-specific impact data, and work with statewide partners to identify federal actions that affect local governments and the essential services upon which Alaska communities depend.

Updated December 2026.
Adopted by the majority of AML members at the Annual Business Meeting, December 12, 2025.

RESOLUTION #2026-15
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 effects, with mitigation and monitoring commitments co-developed with the host municipality.
6. Coordinate across projects and jurisdictions to manage cumulative effects and infrastructure sequencing, using regional workgroups where appropriate; and

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

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

BE IT FINALLY RESOLVED that AML commits to being a positive partner by: • Publishing a Permitting Readiness Toolkit (templates for resolutions, comment letters, meeting calendars, local permitting checklists) and delivering training/webinars on FAST-41 and state permitting. • Issuing plain-language briefs that translate Dashboard updates and key milestones for local officials and the public. • Supporting regional coordination among municipalities to synchronize schedules and share technical resources.

Adopted by the majority of AML members at the Annual Business Meeting, December 12, 2025.

RESOLUTION #2026-16

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 FINALLY 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.

Adopted by the majority of AML members at the Annual Business Meeting, December 12, 2025.

RESOLUTION #2026-17

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.

2. Calls on USPS, the U.S. Department of Transportation, and other relevant federal agencies to avoid policy or operational changes that would reduce service levels, increase costs disproportionately, or destabilize rural supply chains, and to consult with Alaska local governments, carriers, shippers, and the State of Alaska prior to any proposed adjustments affecting Bypass Mail.

3. Requests Congressional oversight and, as needed, clarifying legislation or report language to sustain the program's statutory footing, ensure cost-effective contracting and operations suited to Alaska's conditions, and provide budgetary support adequate to maintain reliable, affordable delivery of essentials.

4. Supports data-driven transparency from USPS on Bypass Mail rates, volumes, costs, and service performance, so that local governments and residents can understand and plan for impacts. 5. Directs that copies of this resolution be transmitted to Alaska's Congressional Delegation, the Postmaster General, the U.S. Secretary of Transportation, and the Governor of Alaska.

Adopted by the majority of AML members at the Annual Business Meeting, December 12, 2025.

RESOLUTION #2026-18
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.

Updated December 2026.
Adopted by the majority of AML members at the Annual Business Meeting, December 12, 2025.

RESOLUTION #2026-21

A RESOLUTION TO ADDRESS ALASKA POLICE STANDARDS COUNCIL RECERTIFICATION REQUIREMENTS FOR POLICE CHIEFS IN RURAL ALASKA.

WHEREAS, the Alaska Municipal League aims to address the issue of Alaska Police Standards Council (APSC) recertification requirements for Police Chiefs in rural Alaska; WHEREAS, the Alaska Municipal League understands, respects, and supports the authority and responsibilities of APSC to certify qualified law enforcement personnel throughout Alaska;

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

WHEREAS, a rural municipality 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 the new Chief has not served in a standard patrol officer role within the past five years;

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

WHEREAS, 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 Alaska Municipal League will address these issues and develop an advocacy with APSC regulatory revisions to: 1) expand recognition of federal service to assist 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 Alaska Municipal League 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 Alaska Municipal League hereby offers and directs Alaska municipal administrations 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.

Adopted by the majority of AML members at the Annual Business Meeting, December 12, 2025.

RESOLUTION #2026-22

A RESOLUTION IN SUPPORT OF A STATEWIDE SPAY AND NEUTER PROGRAM.

WHEREAS, communities across Alaska face ongoing challenges related to pet overpopulation, animal welfare, and the financial burden of sheltering unwanted animals; and

WHEREAS, spaying and neutering are effective, humane methods for reducing stray populations, shelter intake, euthanasia rates, and associated public health concerns; and

WHEREAS, expanding access to affordable sterilization services – potentially funded through specialty license plate sales and Pick.Click.Give contributions – would help reduce the financial burden on municipalities, nonprofits, and taxpayers; and

WHEREAS, a statewide program would provide resources and technical support to strengthen local efforts in animal safety and welfare.

WHEREAS, The Alaska Municipal League supports policies that strengthen local governments' ability to protect public health, safety, and welfare; and a statewide spay and neuter program would assist municipalities in addressing animal overpopulation and related community impacts.

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the Alaska Municipal League supports the creation of a statewide spay and neuter program, implemented in collaboration with municipalities, veterinarians, and animal welfare organizations.

Updated December 2026.
Adopted by the majority of AML members at the Annual Business Meeting, December 12, 2025.

RESOLUTION #2025-01

A RESOLUTION SUPPORTING AN ANALYSIS OF THE DEMAND FOR AND IMPACT OF CHARTER SCHOOLS ON THE PUBLIC EDUCATION SYSTEM AND OPPOSING CHANGES TO THE CHARTER SCHOOL CREATION PROCESS THAT BYPASS LOCAL SCHOOL DISTRICT APPROVAL

WHEREAS, public charter schools and Tribal compact schools meet the diverse needs of students and their parents and guardians across the state; and

WHEREAS, charter schools are required to comply with district policies and regulations and charter schools create a financial obligation for local tax payers; and

WHEREAS, pupil enrollment in charter schools and Tribal compact schools does not change the overall amount of state funding available for public education but does reduce local school districts' ability to take advantage of economies of scale.

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Alaska Municipal League calls on DEED to perform an assessment of the demand for charter schools and an assessment of the financial impacts to the public education system of opening new charter schools and Tribal compact schools; and

BE IT FINALLY RESOLVED that the Alaska Municipal League opposes changes to the charter school creation process that eliminate the control of local school districts to approve new charter schools.

Adopted by the majority of AML members at the Annual Business Meeting, December 13, 2024.

RESOLUTION #2025-02

A RESOLUTION CALLING FOR STATE FUNDING TO SUBSIDIZE WATER AND WASTEWATER OPERATIONS COSTS IN HIGH RATE BURDEN COMMUNITIES

WHEREAS, Alaska's rural communities experience the highest levels of water insecurity in the United States due to the absence or deterioration of infrastructure and high operating costs, of which a significant portion is the cost of staffing; and

WHEREAS, reduced utility revenues combined with increasing inflation make it difficult for communities to properly operate and maintain their water and wastewater systems; and

WHEREAS, the Village Safe Water Act, in AS 46.07.020, instructs the Alaska Department of Environmental Conservation to assure that there is at least one facility for safe water and hygienic sewage disposal in each village; and

WHEREAS, the Village Safe Water Act, in AS 46.07.050(b), gives the Alaska Department of Environmental Conservation the authority to make grants to the governing bodies of water and wastewater facilities that do not have sufficient financial resources to operate and maintain the facility; and

WHEREAS, the Alaska Department of Environmental Conservation has developed an Affordability Framework to assess the ability of households in Village Safe Water program communities to afford residential water and sewer rates, and which classifies communities as Low, Medium, or High Burden.

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Alaska Municipal League calls on the legislature to appropriate $10 million for grants for the operations of village water and wastewater facilities in High Burden communities; and

BE IT FINALLY RESOLVED that the Alaska Municipal League supports legislation that will increase the size of villages that qualify for programs under the Village Safe Water Act from a population of 1,000 and under to 1,500 and under.

Adopted by the majority of AML members at the Annual Business Meeting, December 13, 2024.

RESOLUTION #2025-03

A RESOLUTION SUPPORTING A STATEWIDE ELECTRONICS PRODUCT STEWARDSHIP PROGRAM

WHEREAS, waste management is an essential government service provided by local governments to protect public health, control blight, and provide quality of life; and

WHEREAS, Alaskans generate over 15 million pounds annually of spent electronics that require expensive and specialized waste management resources and incur a significant future municipal cost through hastened need for capital funding of landfill closure and new site planning; and

WHEREAS, electronics contain toxic chemicals harmful to human health and subsistence resources, such as lead, cadmium, mercury, flame retardants, and PFAS, and these chemicals leach out as the landfilled electronics age, potentially flowing to nearby land, creeks, ponds, rivers, and bays that provide drinking water and important subsistence resources; and

WHEREAS, Class II and III rural landfills serve a third of all Alaskans, are unique to Alaska due to engineering and economy of scale considerations and are not designed to contain this leachate; and

WHEREAS, at least 150 communities are within one mile of their Class III landfill, where burning waste in passive steel containers called burnboxes is a common least-cost waste management strategy through which residents can be exposed to product chemicals; and

WHEREAS, electronics are proposed to be listed as a hazardous waste under the pending State of Alaska Hazardous Waste Program, potentially increasing the cost of electronics disposal; and

WHEREAS, 27 states have Product Stewardship laws that result in electronics manufacturers paying for all or part of their state's electronics recycling with residents in those states experiencing no associated increase in the cost for their electronics; and

WHEREAS, a Statewide Electronics Product Stewardship Program can be implemented without the levy of fees, taxes, or Alaska retail business burden; and WHEREAS, the State of Alaska can develop a Product Stewardship program without administrative cost to the State, and municipalities are not beholden to participate in, or administer, the Program.

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Alaska Municipal League supports a comprehensive statewide Product Stewardship Program for electronic recycling to substantially reduce local and regional government waste management costs as well as public health risks to their constituency.

Adopted by the majority of AML members at the Annual Business Meeting, December 13, 2024.

RESOLUTION #2025-04

A RESOLUTION SUPPORTING AN AMENDMENT TO ALASKA STATUTE 29.71.800 TO ALLOW FOR WEB BASED PUBLIC NOTICE.

WHEREAS, Alaska municipalities take many actions that require public notice, including public meetings, public hearings, elections, assessment districts, property taxes, land and surplus sales, among others; and

WHEREAS, Alaska Statute (AS) Title 29 mandates that public notices be published and section 29.71.800 (18) state that "published" means appearing at least once in a newspaper of general circulation distributed to the municipality or, if there is no newspaper of general circulation distributed in the municipality, posting in three public places for at least five days; and

WHEREAS, newspapers throughout Alaska are reducing their physical paper publication dates or fail to publish public notices due to staff shortages, inhibiting municipalities' governing bodies' ability to take action at their regularly scheduled meetings; and

WHEREAS, many newspapers now publish online and municipalities publish public notices on their websites, a format that is becoming a common method for the public to access information; and

WHEREAS, it would be a great service to Alaska municipalities for section 29.71.800 (18) to amend "published" to include allowance for online public notice to achieve public notice requirements.

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that AML requests that the Alaska State Legislature amend the definition of "published" in AS 29.71.800 (18) to include allowance for web based public notice to achieve municipal public notice requirements.

Adopted by the majority of AML members at the Annual Business Meeting, December 13, 2024.

RESOLUTION #2024-03

A RESOLUTION IN SUPPORT OF A STRATEGIC WORKFORCE RECRUITMENT AND RETENTION EFFORT BY AND WITH THE STATE OF ALASKA TO CORRECT HIGH PUBLIC SECTOR VACANCY RATES

WHEREAS, national employment data show that private employment has fully recovered from pre-pandemic levels, while state and local public employment remains below pre-pandemic numbers; and

WHEREAS, the State of Alaska is operating with an average vacancy rate of 13.9% over the past year (October 2024) with some agencies, such as the Alaska Marine Highway System, facing vacancy rates greater than 50% at times; and

WHEREAS, the current vacancy rates impede the ability of the State of Alaska and local governments to provide public services to Alaskans, lower the State of Alaska's contributions to PERS, and hurt the economy; and

WHEREAS, the State of Alaska and local governments play key roles in implementing the provisions of the Bipartisan Infrastructure Law and Inflation Reduction Act and obtaining funding for and building once-in-a- generation infrastructure projects; and

WHEREAS, the public sector faces specific barriers to hiring, like burnout, long hiring processes, and pay competition with the private sector.

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that AML encourages the State of Alaska to address vacancy rates within State agencies; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the State's efforts be coordinated with local governments to implement complementary workforce recruitment and retention strategies within cities and boroughs.

Adopted by the majority of AML members at the Annual Business Meeting, December 8, 2023.

RESOLUTION #2024-04

A RESOLUTION IN SUPPORT OF REQUIRING THE LEGISLATURE TO INCLUDE FISCAL NOTES THAT QUANTIFY COSTS TO MUNICIPALITIES AND SCHOOL DISTRICTS IN LEGISLATION THAT IMPACTS THESE ENTITIES

WHEREAS, an "unfunded mandate" is any statute, administrative regulation, or order that demands action from a subordinate government without adequate provision for funding the cost to the subordinate government of implementing the demanded action; and

WHEREAS, unfunded mandates are a problem because the federal and state governments have tended to balance their budgets on the backs of subordinate governments, thereby shielding themselves from taking the fiscal responsibility for their own policy and program decisions; and

WHEREAS, from a purely political standpoint, an unfunded mandate can ensure that the blame for higher taxes or service cuts falls to local elected officials rather than the government that made the decision; and
WHEREAS, unfunded mandates are a threat to municipal and school district governance and operations in Alaska; and

WHEREAS, additional requirements of a municipality or school district, when not reimbursed, result in a loss of capacity to deliver public services to community members and students; and

WHEREAS, AS 24.08.035 requires that bills and resolutions carry fiscal notes that contain an estimate of the cost that would result from enactment for the current fiscal year and for five fiscal years in the future; and

WHEREAS, this statute limits those estimates to the cost to the State of Alaska alone, excluding costs that may fall to local governments and school districts to bear, obfuscating the true cost of enacting legislation.

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that AML supports legislation that requires the State of Alaska and Alaska State Legislature to include municipal and school district fiscal notes as part of its process in evaluating legislation that impacts local governments and public education**.**

Adopted by the majority of AML members at the Annual Business Meeting, December 8, 2023.

RESOLUTION #2024-06

A RESOLUTION IN SUPPORT OF EXPANDED FUNDING FOR NOAA AND PARTNERS TO COMPLETE MAPPING AND BATHYMETRY OF ALASKA'S COASTAL ZONE.

WHEREAS, Alaska's 66,000 miles of coastline are the longest of any state in the nation – and more than the rest of the nation combined – and are important places for economic activity, community development, transportation, and subsistence; and

WHEREAS, completed mapping and bathymetry is especially lacking for Alaska and for the Alaskan Arctic, which lack the comprehensive shoreline and nearshore maps available to much of the rest of the nation; and

WHEREAS, informed decisions and improved safety in the coastal zone depend heavily on accurate and up-to- date coastal mapping data; and

WHEREAS, community resilience to coastal hazards such as flooding, erosion, and tsunami begins with mapping data to establish baseline conditions and model change; and

WHEREAS, increased efforts to map Alaska's coastal zone will lead to improved access to and utilization of data; and

WHEREAS, mapping will bolster the shipping and fishing economy through safer maritime navigation; and

WHEREAS, mapping will ensure more resilient coastal economies through flood and wave impact modeling, data-driven coastal infrastructure development, improved emergency planning, and more effective community management plans; and

WHEREAS, the November 2019 Presidential Memorandum on Ocean Mapping of the United States Exclusive Economic Zone and the Shoreline and Nearshore of Alaska calls for the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA), the State of Alaska, and the Alaska Mapping Executive Committee (AMEC) to develop an Alaska coastal mapping strategy; and

WHEREAS, sufficient funding will lead to seamless and accurate coastal mapping data that will support the State of Alaska, local governments, Alaska's economy, Tribes, national security, and the environment.

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that AML requests that Congress allocate the resources necessary to complete the goals and objectives outlined in Mapping the Coast of Alaska: A 10-Year Strategy in Support of the United States Economy, Security, and Environment by 2030; and

BE IT FINALLY RESOLVED in order to further the mission of NOAA in Alaska, we call upon the federal government to provide housing for NOAA employees, including in Ketchikan, the homeport of the NOAA research vessel Fairweather.

Adopted by the majority of AML members at the Annual Business Meeting, December 8, 2023.

RESOLUTION #2024-07

A RESOLUTION IN SUPPORT OF CHANGES TO HUD REGULATIONS TO INCREASE PARTICIPATION OF ALASKA LOCAL GOVERNMENTS IN HUD-FUNDED PROGRAMS

WHEREAS, Alaska's existing housing stock is overcrowded, energy inefficient, and aging rapidly, while new housing construction is unable to keep pace with demand, leading to a growing housing shortage across the state; and

WHEREAS, the shortage of safe, stable, and affordable housing negatively affects public health, quality of life, and the ability of communities to recruit and retain essential professionals, including teachers, public safety officers, healthcare workers, and municipal employees; and

WHEREAS, the shortage of housing affects the ability of communities to recruit and retain professionals, including teachers, public safety officers, and healthcare workers, leading to worsening economic outcomes; and

WHEREAS, the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) Entitlement Program exists to create transformative impact within communities, improve the lives of residents, especially those with low- and moderate-income levels, and develop strategies that bring partners and resources together; and

WHEREAS, Anchorage is the only Alaska city large enough to receive money directly from this program, receiving $1.8 million in FFY 2026, or 0.05% of the national total; and

WHEREAS, the State of Alaska is awarded funding for the balance of the state, receiving $2.56 million in FFY 2026, or 0.08% of the national total;

WHEREAS, HUD's 2025 Annual Homelessness Assessment Report documented 2,655 individuals experiencing homelessness in Alaska, while traditional homelessness counts may not adequately capture housing insecurity in rural communities where residents frequently rely on overcrowded or temporary living arrangements; and

WHEREAS, in many communities across the state there are no emergency shelters, no vacancies of habitable structures, and the environmental conditions are so harsh that living outdoors results in freezing to death; and

WHEREAS, local governments continue to develop innovative solutions to the housing crisis, yet find themselves unable to access CDBG funds.

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that AML requests that the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development update the CDBG funding formulas and expand other programs to address the needs of small and rural communities in Alaska that are otherwise excluded.

Updated December 2026.
Adopted by the majority of AML members at the Annual Business Meeting, December 8, 2023.

RESOLUTION #2024-09

A RESOLUTION REQUESTING THE ALASKA STATE LEGISLATURE ASSIST COMMUNITIES IN ADDRESSING HOMELESSNESS.

WHEREAS, housing is the solution to homelessness, but until our housing shortage is addressed, local governments must look at making investments in emergency shelter and other support; and

WHEREAS, the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) defines homelessness as: individuals or families who lack a fixed, regular, and adequate nighttime residence; individuals or families who are temporarily couch surfing; unaccompanied youth under 25 years of age who are unstably housed; and individuals or families fleeing or attempting to flee domestic violence and have no other residence; and

WHEREAS, according to the Alaska Housing Finance Corporation (AHFC), the Alaska Homeless Management Information System recorded 15,818 unduplicated individuals receiving homelessness services statewide during calendar year 2024; and

WHEREAS, HUD's 2025 Point-in-Time Count identified 2,655 individuals experiencing homelessness across Alaska on a single night in January, including 574 unsheltered individuals, compared with 479 unsheltered individuals in 2024; and

WHEREAS, Alaska Housing Finance Corporation's Alaska Housing Rent Relief program provided more than $260 million in rental and utility assistance to 26,222 households, helping families maintain housing stability, while continuing rental costs and housing shortages threaten the effectiveness of homelessness prevention efforts; and

WHEREAS, visits by HUD Secretaries Marcia Fudge in 2023 and Scott Turner in 2025 highlighted the need for review of HUD funding formulas and the negative and inequitable impact they have on Alaska; and

WHEREAS, communities, whether through local governments or through philanthropy, have made significant investments to address homelessness across the state; and

WHEREAS, emergency shelter includes large congregate shelter, non-congregate shelter, churches, or other smaller facilities serving many different populations; and

WHEREAS, line-item budget vetoes of the State of Alaska FY20 budget led to a reduction in shelter capacity throughout the state, highlighting the fragility of operational funding; and

WHEREAS, there are limits on local government capacity to take on operational costs of shelter, especially winter shelter, but are making investments across the system and need help from the State of Alaska to make these investments sustainable long term; and

WHEREAS, the Alaska Council on the Homeless is responsible for monitoring the implementation of Alaska's Plan to End Long-Term Homelessness, adopted in October 2015, and reporting findings and recommendations to the Governor; and

WHEREAS, HUD reports that several studies have found that, compared with the treatment first model, Housing First approaches offer greater long-term housing stability, especially among people experiencing chronic homelessness.

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that AML supports the Alaska Legislature invest in regular operational funding for emergency shelters across the state; and

BE IT FINALLY RESOLVED that AML requests that the governor task the Alaska Council on the Homeless to update Alaska’s Plan to End Long Term Homelessness and encourages the update to adopt the housing first model and provide a continuum of services and an exit strategy with measurable, trackable outcomes.

Updated December 2026.
Adopted by the majority of AML members at the Annual Business Meeting, December 8, 2023

RESOLUTION #2024-10

A RESOLUTION REQUESTING THE ALASKA STATE LEGISLATURE APPROVE AN INFRASTRUCTURE GENERAL OBLIGATION BOND FOR THE 2028 ELECTION

WHEREAS, ports, harbors, bridges, and roads are critical infrastructure for residents and businesses, and serve important functions such as: food security, fuel delivery, transportation and logistics, resource extraction, commercial fishing, tourism, hospitality, national security, and military preparedness; and

WHEREAS, Alaska has the most miles of coastline of any U.S. state, and communities maintain a total of 40 port and harbor facilities; and

WHEREAS, there is a critical need for coastal infrastructure repair and maintenance in Alaska, according to the Report Card for Alaska's Infrastructure 2025 by the Alaska Section of the American Society of Civil Engineers, awarded Alaska a grade of "C-" to its ports and harbors, "C" for roads, "B+" for bridges, "D+" for drinking water, and "D" for wastewater; and

WHEREAS, the Bipartisan Infrastructure Law (BIL), signed November 2021, authorizes $1.2 trillion dollars of much-needed federal infrastructure investment, including over $17 billion in funding for ports and maritime infrastructure over five years; and other financing such as the Transportation Infrastructure Finance and Innovation Act (TIFIA) loan program may be available but requires a dedicated fund source; and

WHEREAS, Alaska received more than $115 million in PIDP grants for seven port projects in April 2026; and

WHEREAS, federal infrastructure programs provide an opportunity to improve the state's aging infrastructure, but Alaska communities have limited capacity to fund the match amounts required by federal grants; and

WHEREAS, a 2011 study on Alaska's ports and harbors recommended the State of Alaska create a Transportation Infrastructure Development Program to create a comprehensive baseline assessment of coastal infrastructure and state funding of such infrastructure; and

WHEREAS, the State of Alaska has historically used voter-approved general obligation bonds to finance capital infrastructure, issuing approximately $2.875 billion in general obligation debt for transportation, education, water and sewer, harbor development, and other capital purposes since statehood, with the most recent statewide general obligation bond authorization approved by voters in 2012; and

WHEREAS, the State Legislature must approve a general obligation bond package during the 35th Legislative Session for a bond package to appear on the 2028 ballot; and;

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Alaska Municipal League supports the legislature and administration funding critical infrastructure throughout the state with general obligation bonds and other or braided state and federal funding, including federal infrastructure grants and financing programs, TIFIA financing, and other capital sources that leverage local match funding and revenue streams.

Updated December 2026.
Adopted by the majority of AML members at the Annual Business Meeting, December 8, 2023.

RESOLUTION #2024-11

A RESOLUTION REQUESTING SUSTAINED STATE INVESTMENT IN ALASKA'S BEHAVIORAL HEALTH CONTINUUM, INCLUDING CRISIS RESPONSE AND COMMUNITY-BASED SERVICES

WHEREAS, the Alaska Constitution requires the Legislature to "provide for the promotion and protection of public health" under Article VII, Section 4, and behavioral health is an important component of the health and well-being of Alaska communities; Nancy Dahlstrom

WHEREAS, gaps in behavioral health services affect communities across Alaska and can increase reliance on law enforcement, emergency medical services, hospital emergency departments, and other local and regional resources that may not be the most appropriate setting for responding to a behavioral health crisis; Alaska Mental Health Trust

WHEREAS, the State of Alaska, Alaska Mental Health Trust Authority, local governments, behavioral health providers, Tribal health organizations, and other partners continue to strengthen Alaska's behavioral health crisis response system using the nationally recognized Crisis Now model as a framework; Alaska Mental Health Trust

WHEREAS, Alaska's behavioral health crisis continuum includes the 988 Suicide & Crisis Lifeline and crisis call services, mobile crisis response, crisis stabilization, and short-term stabilization services, with the goal of connecting individuals experiencing a behavioral health crisis to the appropriate level of care; Alaska Mental Health Trust

WHEREAS, Alaska communities vary significantly in population, geography, workforce capacity, infrastructure, and available behavioral health services, and implementation of the behavioral health crisis continuum must allow for service models that are appropriate and sustainable for rural, remote, and frontier communities; State of Alaska | Department of Health

WHEREAS, recent State analysis of Alaska's behavioral health crisis continuum has identified opportunities to expand the range of crisis services available to communities, provide greater flexibility in service delivery, and align reimbursement with the actual resources necessary to provide sustainable crisis care; State of Alaska | Department of Health

WHEREAS, a strong behavioral health system requires not only effective crisis response, but also adequate prevention, treatment, recovery, workforce, housing, and community-based services so that Alaskans can receive appropriate care before, during, and after a behavioral health crisis;

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, the Alaska Municipal League requests that the Alaska Legislature provide sustained and adequate investment in Alaska's behavioral health crisis continuum, including the 988 Suicide & Crisis Lifeline and crisis call services, mobile crisis response, crisis stabilization and short-term stabilization services, and targeted assistance to communities developing locally appropriate behavioral health services; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, AML requests that the State ensure that Medicaid reimbursement and other funding mechanisms adequately support the cost of providing behavioral health and crisis services,

including service models that reflect the unique circumstances of rural, remote, and frontier communities; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, AML requests that the Alaska Legislature and Administration continue to address gaps across the broader behavioral health continuum through workforce and housing investments, sustainable community-based services, coordination among state, Tribal, municipal, and private-sector partners, and the removal of regulatory and programmatic barriers that limit access to appropriate care.

Updated December 2026.
Adopted by the majority of AML members at the Annual Business Meeting, December 8, 2023.

RESOLUTION #2023-01

A RESOLUTION CALLING FOR LEGISLATION TO PROTECT PUBLIC INTEREST BY LESSENING THE BURDEN OF COMMERCIAL PUBLIC RECORDS REQUESTS ON ALASKA'S LOCAL GOVERNMENTS

WHEREAS, the Alaska Public Records Act aims to promote government transparency by laying out requirements for public records requests for state agencies and local governments; and

WHEREAS, commercial firms, which send blanket requests for public records nationally, have proliferated with the development of the internet and since passage of the Act; and

WHEREAS, the Alaska Public Records Act currently requires local governments to provide up to five hours of staff time monthly for all requestors before fees can be assessed for a request – a requirement that national, commercial data firms take advantage of at the public's expense; and

WHEREAS, these requests use up valuable staff time in local governments across the state who have few employees, impeding the provision of key government services; and

WHEREAS, many states make provisions for the difference between individual, media, and commercial requests, and in- and out-of-state requests, with a fee and time structure responsive thereto; and

WHEREAS, the many local governments that have not already established their own processes for accepting requests, such as a request form, are potentially in violation of the Act if they do not respond to the flood of generic, spam-like email public records requests being distributed by these commercial firms and entities outside the state; and

WHEREAS, the U.S. Office of Management and Budget (OMB) established Fee Guidelines for the Freedom of Information Act that establishes a distinct Commercial Use Requestor fee category for these requests, which establishes fees for public records requests by those who seek records for "a use or purpose that furthers the commercial, trade, or profit interests of the requester"; and

WHEREAS, the OMB Fee Guidelines could be used as a framework for local governments and state agencies to be adequately compensated for work provided to commercial data firms, if the Alaska Public Records Act were amended to allow this.

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the Alaska Municipal League supports amendments to the Alaska Public Records Act that protect public interest by lessening the burden of commercial or blanket public records requests on Alaska's local governments; and

BE IT FINALLY RESOLVED, that the Alaska Municipal League encourages the State to consider other actions that might help local governments manage invasive public records requests that take advantage of current public records laws without providing public benefit.

Adopted by the majority of AML members at the Annual Business Meeting, December 9, 2022.

RESOLUTION #2023-07

A RESOLUTION TO SUPPORT FULL FUNDING OF STATE-DIRECTED PRESUMPTIONS OF LIABILITY, INCLUDING THE CONSIDERATION OF A TRUST TO SUPPORT LOCAL GOVERNMENT EMPLOYERS IMPACTED THEREBY.

WHEREAS, according to AS 23.30.121 compensation is required for disability as a result of the diseases described in section (b) of this statute; and

WHEREAS, the Alaska Municipal League members are the largest employers of these firefighters in Alaska, who are disproportionately affected by these diseases due to the nature of their employment; and

WHEREAS, the majority of their worker's compensation insurance is provided by pooled public insurance entities, for whom even few claims on limited assets may result in destabilization; and

WHEREAS, the presumption of compensability by the State is an unfunded obligation for local governments to bear, and it has been found that a state's presumption of compensability elsewhere in the nation has risked the insurance coverage of those employees; and

WHEREAS, the Alaska Municipal League is strongly supportive of mechanisms that improve and redress the health of all employees, and while health insurance and programs are the correct way to address health inequities and disease, may be supportive of State presumption of compensability to the extent it is funded by the State; and

WHEREAS, the State's presumption of compensability is a clear prioritization by the State of the health of its public safety, a prioritization that should result in appropriate levels of resourcing to match the commitment; and

WHEREAS, the State should provide a reliable funding stream from which to compensate Alaska's public safety professionals and volunteers, and there are models elsewhere to establish a Trust that would fulfill this obligation; and

WHEREAS, the State – in placing a priority on the health and well-being of firefighters – may express that priority by making contributions to a Trust that reflect the potential costs of the presumptions that have been enacted, and

WHEREAS, the State would place funding in a designated fund, or account, for workers compensation claims submitted under AS 23.30.121(b), from which the State would reimburse the individual, employer, or insurance carrier.

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Alaska Municipal League requests that the State entrust funds to manage the potential risk associated with these presumptions and join municipal employers in supporting the health and safety of our public safety professionals.

Adopted by the majority of AML members at the Annual Business Meeting, December 9, 2022

RESOLUTION #2023-03

A RESOLUTION URGING THE GOVERNOR AND LEGISLATURE TO EXERCISE OVERSIGHT OF THE LOCAL BOUNDARY COMMISSION, TO MEET THE CONSTITUTIONAL OBLIGATION FOR MAXIMUM LOCAL SELF- GOVERNMENT

WHEREAS, Article X of the Alaska Constitution obligates the State to provide for maximum local selfgovernment, and Alaska's economy depends on well-supported local self- governance, which is more effective at adaptively meeting community needs than state or federal intervention; and

WHEREAS, the status quo has left communities in the unorganized borough without the tools to consider or pursue incorporation, the State has left communities to cede local control for State management, thus depriving residents of maximum local self-governance and its benefits, and Alaska's communities are required to depend on the State to establish or amend their boundaries and status, even as local governments are providing essential services in the face of changing conditions, fiscal uncertainty, and global instability; and

WHEREAS, the Alaska Constitution created the Local Boundary Commission as the mechanism by which municipal boundaries are confirmed, and which the Legislature and Governor set policy, composition, and procedure for; and

WHEREAS, the Alaska Constitution's framers intended the Commission to bring flexibility, adaptability, and rationality to local government boundaries by analyzing proposed changes fairly and objectively consistent with maximum local self-government and the Constitution; and

WHEREAS, the Legislature and Commission set the precedent of using the legislative review method as the primary procedure for Commissioners' consideration of annexation, ensuring that the framers' vision for the local boundary process was implemented accurately; and

WHEREAS, by veering from precedent and disregarding their obligation to a fair and objective process, the Commission has created a process that does not result in greater local self-governance, deterring communities from seeking boundary changes, growth, and incorporation.

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the Alaska Municipal League urges the Governor and Legislature to exercise oversight and review policy of the Local Boundary Commission, including confirmation by the Legislature of Commissioners; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Alaska Municipal League urges sitting and prospective Commissioners to the Local Boundary Commission to consider their procedures and decision- making to ensure the fairness and objectivity required of them; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that State policymakers revisit how they can support well- reasoned annexation, incorporation, and borough formation to meet the obligation for maximum local self-government, the Mandatory Borough Act, and the intent of the Constitution.

Adopted by the majority of AML members at the Annual Business Meeting, December 9, 2022

RESOLUTION #2023-08

A RESOLUTION SUPPORTING THE ESTABLISHMENT OF PUBLIC SAFETY MATCHING FUNDS BY THE STATE.

WHEREAS, it is the State's constitutional obligation to provide for public health and public wellness, which should be understood to include the provision of public safety through sufficient law enforcement, fire and emergency response, and corrections; and

WHEREAS, as political subdivisions of the State, local governments take on the majority of these responsibilities, with the vast majority of police occurring locally, including 40 local governments with police departments, and many other communities with police powers that translate into the hiring of Village Police Officers; and

WHEREAS, it is also true that many local governments have been unable to identify the resources necessary to establish or strengthen local law enforcement; and

WHEREAS, in communities without local law enforcement, it is the responsibility of the State Troopers to deliver public safety, and the Department of Public Safety bears the costs of delivery of law enforcement in some of the most populated and the most remote areas of the state; and

WHEREAS, there is an inconsistent application of public safety in Alaska, which may not produce the desirable outcomes expected by residents or envisioned in the Constitution, and that inconsistency – where in most areas the State pays the entirety of the costs and lack of capacity may not ensure adequate law enforcement, while in others local governments pick up the entirety of the costs, save the State money in doing so, and are responsive to local public safety needs – is not fair to the State, nor local governments; and

WHEREAS, one way in which to address this while maintaining local control over the decision whether to take on police powers, or not, is for the State to establish a basic minimum resource obligation that it will provide to cities and boroughs in Alaska for law enforcement; and

WHEREAS, essentially, the Legislature may determine in statute a mechanism by which to establish the potential for a transfer of funds to a local government that has taken or takes on police powers and establishes adequate policing within its jurisdiction; and

WHEREAS, this incentive should be consistent with variables that include total population and standards for officer per capita, and these can be thought of in terms of matching funds, as part of a community dividend, or added to Community Assistance, and may be scalable by need and over time.

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Alaska Municipal League encourages the Legislature to develop a mechanism to incentivize and reimburse local governments for the implementation of police powers and provision of public safety on behalf of the State.

Adopted by the majority of AML members at the Annual Business Meeting, December 9, 2022

RESOLUTION #2023-09

A RESOLUTION IN SUPPORT OF ACCELERATING THE TRANSFER OF STATE LANDS TO LOCAL GOVERNMENTS, COMPLETING THE MUNICIPAL LANDS PROGRAM, AND WAIVING ADDITIONAL SURVEY COSTS.

WHEREAS, local governments are responsible for more land management than the State of Alaska, with the bulk of these lands found within borough boundaries, and

WHEREAS, boroughs have the statutory responsibility for planning and platting of not just their lands, but State lands as well, and local planning commissions are also responsible for working with federal land managers; and

WHEREAS, borough planning and platting authority is a power devolved from the State, and is a responsibility, then, that the State no longer performs, thus saving the State costs involved; and

WHEREAS, increasing local control of lands within municipal boundaries has a significant impact on their ability to promote economic development and may contribute to cost savings for the State; and

WHEREAS, the Municipal Land Entitlement Program provides Alaskans local governance by determining municipal land entitlements and transferring lands to municipalities under the Municipal Entitlement Act; the program is housed in the Department of Natural Resources and is governed by AS 29.65.010-29.65.130; and

WHEREAS, about 1.35 million acres of State land will eventually be transferred to municipal ownership through this program; and

WHEREAS, of the land transferred to date, municipalities have sold about 140,000 acres to private owners – that means that local governments have been able to move about 22% of their lands into private hands; and

WHEREAS, survey costs are high, requirements are onerous, and agency work slow; it is difficult to move from land approved by the State to land available for sale and streamlining this process, reducing barriers and costs, and increasing timeliness would facilitate development; and

WHEREAS, there remain 136,000 acres of land waiting for entitlement, which is land that local governments are depending on to develop, and which would increase their land available to meet a variety of needs; and

WHEREAS, there is an insufficient amount of vacant, unappropriated, unreserved (VUU) lands available for new borough formation; and

WHEREAS, the Alaska Lands Act requires some portion of this land to be available for borough formation, and the State may not have allocated enough of this for the remaining unorganized boroughs; and

WHEREAS, the State may need to consider a set aside, now, to benefit those areas of the state that may have an interest in borough formation but no available VUU lands; if the State has insufficient land available for these purposes, it may need to compensate unorganized boroughs accordingly; and

WHEREAS, local governments are the most direct beneficiaries of private development, have the most at stake and therefore the most interest in a process that works well; and WHEREAS, political subdivisions of the State determine appropriate levels of service and infrastructure maintenance responsibilities for residential and commercial properties, ensuring a uniform level of platting that corresponds to planning, zoning, and the needs of the local governments and property owners, accomplished in cooperation with developers; and

WHEREAS, there exist numerous options for strengthening State-local cooperation on lands development, including: • Lease-share agreements for large tracts • State seat on planning/platting commissions and/or Joint Lands Commission • Streamlined planning/platting processes between local governments • Cost-share for access improvements • Long-term planning processes • Remote access requirements – waiver on standards within State Statute and Code • Include boroughs as part of Agency review • Municipal Entitlement Lands transfers • State to complete surveying process • Sale/lease of state lands for disposal to private owners

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Alaska Municipal League supports the State establishing ways in which lands may be transferred more expeditiously to local governments and in support of future organization; and

BE IT FINALLY RESOLVED that a joint, high-level collaborative effort between local governments and the State may facilitate this process and will require active engagement by the Legislature.

Adopted by the majority of AML members at the Annual Business Meeting, December 9, 2022.

RESOLUTION #2023-10

A RESOLUTION SUPPORTING STATE PROVISION OF NON-FEDERAL MATCH FOR LOCAL GOVERNMENT INFRASTRUCTURE PROJECTS, AND TO ADDRESS GAPS IN FEDERAL INFRASTRUCTURE FUNDING

WHEREAS, recent federal infrastructure investments provide Alaska's State, local, and Tribal governments with a once in a generation opportunity to make formative change and address incredible need; and

WHEREAS, discretionary, competitive grants for local and Tribal governments are a significant part of the new laws, however, many smaller governments lack the capacity or resources to compete and execute federal funding; and

WHEREAS, the infrastructure needs of communities in Alaska extend beyond the scope of federal programs in areas such as housing, public safety facilities, school facilities, and recreation and quality of life infrastructure; and

WHEREAS, the State is in a position to identify and coordinate those community needs.

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Alaska Municipal League encourages the State to leverage federal infrastructure investment by providing access to funds that could be used for non-federal match by local governments; and funding available for community facilities that might not otherwise be available through federal infrastructure investment.

Adopted by the majority of AML members at the Annual Business Meeting, December 9, 2022

RESOLUTION #2022-04

A RESOLUTION ENCOURAGING THE RCA AND LEGISLATURE TO MAKE ADJUSTMENTS TO THE POWER COST EQUALIZATION PROGRAM FOR COMMUNITIES AND UTILITIES THAT ARE MOVING TOWARDS ENERGY INDEPENDENCE USING RENEWABLE GENERATION.

WHEREAS, the Alaska Municipal League supports the idea of "maximum local self- government"; and

WHEREAS, the stated purpose of the PCE program is to provide benefits to rural communities by lowering the electricity costs paid by customers, which in turn helps to ensure the sustainability of remote economies dependent on available, reliable, and centralized power; and

WHEREAS, the PCE program subsidizes the electric rates for the first 750 monthly, residential kWhs to levels comparable to those paid by consumers in Anchorage, Fairbanks, and Juneau, as well as provides some additional financial support to cover a portion of the electrical costs for community facilities; and

WHEREAS, the PCE program provides benefits to these rural communities based on a formula which is heavily weighed by the cost and quantity of diesel fuel used to produce energy in the communities; and

WHEREAS, some rural communities are increasing the use of renewable energy sources to reduce and/or replace traditional diesel power systems, and now realizing there is a disincentive to do so given the current PCE regulations; and

WHEREAS, as an example, since 2017 the City of King Cove and its residents are not receiving any PCE support because their two hydro facilities are producing about 85% of their annual electric demand of approximately 5 MWhs; and

WHEREAS, decreasing the dependence on diesel-generated power while incurring new debt costs for the development of these renewable energy production does not appear to be equitably considered in the current PCE regulations; and

WHEREAS, PCE regulations allow for an annual depreciation value of up to 50 years on the capital investments/ loans for these facilities and the inclusion of annual interest paid on these long term debts, however, this ends up being only a modest annual expenditure "savings" compared to the avoided diesel fuel costs and does not appear to get equitably considered in the current PCE regulations; and,

WHEREAS, AML's current Policy Statement on Energy states "Support for vetting of and investing in energy projects, processes and programs that decrease energy costs; reimburse municipal debt or investments corresponding to and by utilizing PCE savings."

WHEREAS, under current PCE reimbursement, the revenue from sales of excess electricity from intermittent generation, like wind, for the purposes like distributed thermal storage are disincentivized, since these sales cannot be subtracted from non-fuel expenses for purposes PCE reimbursement; and,

WHEREAS, the equivalent revenue sale of waste heat from diesel generation can be subtracted from non-fuel expense for purposes of PCE reimbursement; and,

WHEREAS, the additional revenue from sale of excess renewable generation for heating are also counted against the household cap for PCE reimbursement, further decreasing PCE reimbursement; and,

WHEREAS, the current structure of PCE reimbursement for heating disincentivizes innovative approaches to renewables integration and decreasing diesel dependence that otherwise offer the opportunity to reduce the household energy burden of heating oil; and,

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that AML supports and advocates for the reform of the PCE program to make the necessary modifications to allow for a more equitable treatment of the annual debt costs for these renewable energy investments vis-a-vis the tradeoff of replacing annual diesel fuel costs; and,

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that AML supports and advocates for a "renewable energy debt reimbursement factor' be added to the PCE regulations which includes: a) criteria regarding the size and annual production of the renewable energy facility; b) establish a benchmark for a required annual amount of community/utility electricity produced with renewable energy production; and c) establish a factor that considers the amount of avoided annual diesel costs resulting from the renewable energy source compared to the annual debt costs to displace these diesel costs; and,

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that AML supports and advocates for PCE regulation to allow that revenue from the sale of excess renewable generation for heating be subtracted from non-fuel expenses for purposes of PCE reimbursement; and,

BE IT FINALLY RESOLVED that AML supports and advocates for PCE regulation to allow the exemption of otherwise curtailed Kwhs sold for heating from the 750 Kwh household cap for PCE.

Updated December 2024.
Adopted by the majority of AML members at the Annual Business Meeting, November 17, 2021

RESOLUTION #2020-10

A RESOLUTION SUPPORTING REFORM OF THE USDA FOREST SERVICE SECURE RURAL SCHOOLS PROGRAM TO INCLUDE LONG-TERM CERTAINTY AND SUSTAINABILITY OF FUNDING.

WHEREAS, A March 2017 Report by the Congressional Research Service confirmed 61% of all land (224.2 Million Acres) in Alaska is owned by the federal government; 57% (129 Million Acres) of which is managed by agencies with preservation and conservation of land as core mission components, and will likely never be available for development; and

WHEREAS, the Secure Rural Schools and Community Self-Determination Act (SRS) was enacted in 2000 to financially assist counties with public, tax-exempt forestlands; and

WHEREAS, critical services at the county level have historically been funded in part with a 25 percent share of timber receipts from federal U.S. Forest Service lands and a 50 percent share of timber receipts from federal Oregon and California Grant Lands managed by the U.S. Bureau of Land Management; and

WHEREAS, as those revenues have fallen or fluctuated due to reduced timber harvest and market forces, SRS payments helped bridge the gap to keep rural schools open, provide road maintenance, support search and rescue efforts and other essential county services; and

WHEREAS, since enacted in 2000, SRS has provided more than $7 billion in payments to more than 700 counties and 4,400 school districts in more than 40 states to fund schools and essential services like roads and public safety; and

WHEREAS, local governments in Alaska use the SRS funding to supplement transportation funding, and school operations and capital project needs; and

WHEREAS, the elimination of SRS would have an immediate and detrimental effect on the school system and on local transportation infrastructure; and

WHEREAS, local governments who experienced the loss of these funds would be faced with choices of increased taxes or the loss of jobs, including at schools; and

WHEREAS, a short-term solution for SRS should result in continued funding over the next two years, and a long-term fix must account for the sustainability of the program; and

WHEREAS, a sustainable program may include funding features such as a forest visitor fee, or consolidation within the PILT formula, as an additional factor, or may require a large set-aside that produces a return of sustainable revenue over time.

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Alaska Municipal League supports reform of the USDA Forest Service Secure Rural Schools program to include long-term certainty and sustainability of funding.

Adopted by the majority of AML members at the Annual Business Meeting, November 22, 2019

RESOLUTION #2020-11

A RESOLUTION IN SUPPORT OF REFORM OF THE PILT FUNDING FORMULA TO EXTEND MULTIPLIERS TO SMALLER POPULATION COUNTIES (BOROUGHS), AND PERMANENTLY AUTHORIZING THE PROGRAM

WHEREAS, through the federal PILT payment, the Department of Interior provides revenue to counties and county equivalents, such as boroughs, to compensate for nontaxable federal acreage within their respective jurisdictions; and

WHEREAS, in Alaska, PILT funding is distributed not only to boroughs but also to cities within the unorganized borough, and in 2023 was valued at $35,448,677; and

WHEREAS, many Alaska boroughs and cities fund the provision of fire and emergency medical response services to the federal lands and infrastructure as well as providing other services, such as solid waste, public safety, and transportation; and

WHEREAS, the numerous nightly camping and lodging offerings located on federal lands are exempt from local taxation; and

WHEREAS, while the annual number of visitors to these federal lands number over 2,920,250, according to the National Park Service, PILT payments are calculated on the local government's year round population, which in many cases can be fewer than 2,000 residents; and

WHEREAS, the National Association of Counties (NACo) has found that the current PILT formula places counties and boroughs with populations under 5,000 in an unfavorable position in relation to counties with populations greater than 5,000; and

WHEREAS, at their Annual Conference in July 2018, NACo adopted a resolution titled "Resolution on Amendments to PILT Population Caps"; and

WHEREAS, this resolution "supports amending the PILT formula to extend the population multipliers to include additional multipliers for local governments with populations in the range 4,000, 3,000, 2,000 and 1,000"; and

WHEREAS, this amendment increases total PILT funding for numerous Alaska local governments; and

WHEREAS, changes to the PILT formula will strengthen the capacity for partnerships that develop at the local level, it will improve the local government's ability to support tourism and access within federal lands, and it will increase community and economic development.

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, the Alaska Municipal League supports reform of the PILT funding formula to extend multipliers to smaller population counties (boroughs), including through federal legislation as that addressed within the Small County PILT Parity Act; and

BE IT FINALLY RESOLVED, that AML supports permanent reauthorization of the PILT program.
Updated December 2023.

Adopted by the majority of AML members at the Annual Business Meeting, November 22, 2019

RESOLUTION #2019-06

A RESOLUTION SUPPORTING LEGISLATION ADOPTING REAL PROPERTY SALES DISCLOSURE IN ALASKA

WHEREAS, the Alaska Municipal League supports the goal to promote the fair and equitable distribution of the property tax burden which funds local governments; and

WHEREAS, Alaskans, municipalities, and the State benefit from the assessment of fair and equitable values of real property within all taxing jurisdictions in the State of Alaska; and

WHEREAS, an assessor is required, per AS 29.45.110, to assess all property at full and true value, as of January 1 of the assessment year. The full and true value is the estimated price that the property would bring in an open market and under the then prevailing market conditions in a sale between a willing seller and a willing buyer both conversant with the property and with prevailing general price levels; and

WHEREAS, while the legal mandate for assessment at full and true value exists, the sales data that is necessary to determine full and true value is not readily available due to the lack of sales disclosure in the State of Alaska; and

WHEREAS, the Legislative Research Services Division reports that Alaska is one of six states for which sales disclosure for property exchanges are not disclosed; and

WHEREAS, data is currently obtained from requests for voluntary sales information through questionnaires mailed in many jurisdictions, which result in incomplete, unreliable, and in some cases translated to inaccurate reflections of actual market value; and

WHEREAS, sales disclosure would assist in the fair distribution of the tax burden to all taxpayers and would enhance the accuracy and the timeliness of assessments; and

WHEREAS, sales disclosure would enhance the ability of assessment professionals to meet the full and true value mandate and would also aid the public in obtaining information in order to interact within local real estate markets; and

WHEREAS, the lack of sales data in some jurisdictions limits the ability to fairly distribute the tax burden and also to fund local services; and

WHEREAS, sales disclosure would enable property owners to gather data to provide support for legally entitled property tax appeals under AS 29.45.190; and

WHEREAS, the Legislature has preempted the authority of municipal governments to tax real estate transfers, ensuring that the data made available by mandatory disclosure cannot be used to tax property owners.

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Alaska Municipal League urges the Alaska State Legislature to enact legislation requiring disclosures of all real property sales in the State of Alaska.

Updated December 2024.
Adopted by the majority of AML members at the Annual Business Meeting, November 16, 2018

2027-28 Policy and Position Statement Guidelines

The Alaska Municipal League "Policy and Position Statement" is developed in collaboration with AML members, which includes AML board members, and the Legislative Committee, which appointed or elected officials from member municipalities who have expertise and a firm understanding of local government roles and responsibilities.

Policy and positions of AML should 1) be consistent with our principles; 2) be beneficial to local governments; 3) not negatively impact local governments; 4) be multi-jurisdictional or statewide in nature.

Scope of AML positions:

- AML Principles – these inform AML's overall strategy and are not adjusted annually.
- AML Legislative Priorities – developed in draft form at the August Legislative Conference, approved by board of directors after the Annual Conference.
- AML Federal Priorities – developed in draft form at the August Legislative Conference, approved by the board of directors after the Annual Conference.
- AML Policy Statements – these are general statements of support or opposition based on issues that affect local governments and developed in draft form at the August Legislative Conference; approved by members at the Annual Conference.
- AML Legislative Position Statements – these will occur every two years in response to active legislation.

For changes to the Draft 2027-28 Policy and Position Statement to be considered, the Legislative Committee will take member input during the Summer Legislative Conference, editing for brevity and applicability. The Legislative Committee will review all recommended changes by September 18, 2026, after which the proposed 2027-28 Policy and Position Statement will be sent to members for their consideration.

Members may submit changes to the Draft 2027-28 Policy Statement by resolution of the governing body, no later than October 23, 2026. Changes will not be accepted after this date.

The Legislative Committee shall debate and act upon suggested changes during the Legislative Committee on December 9, 2026, for final recommendations to the membership. If the Legislative Committee does not accept the change, the member's governing body may bring it to the floor at the Business Meeting on December 11, 2026, for reconsideration.

Changes accepted by the Legislative Committee shall be shared with members during the General Session on December 10, 2026. The amended Policy Statement shall be voted on by the full membership at the AML Business Meeting to be held on the morning of December 11, 2026.

Please email resolutions to: Nils@akml.org or Kaitlyn@akml.org; fax to: (907) 463-5480; or mail to: AML, One Sealaska Plaza Suite 302, Juneau, AK 99801

2027 2028 Principles and Policy Statements

Purpose: These principles and policy statements guide AML advocacy on behalf of Alaska municipalities. They support the FY 2026–2030 Strategic Business Plan by protecting municipal authority, strengthening the State-local partnership, advancing practical solutions, and improving the policy environment in which local governments operate. The document is organized into three policy areas, 12 major sections, and numbered subsections for clear discussion and reference.

Principles

1. **Protect local self-government.** Ensure State policies preserve municipal authority, local decision-making, and maximum local self-government.
2. **Protect municipal revenue authority and tax bases.** Oppose State actions that preempt, diminish, redirect, or impose inequitable burdens on municipal revenue sources.
3. **Maintain a fair State-local fiscal partnership.** Maintain and increase revenue sharing and provide sufficient, inflation-adjusted funding for basic public needs and State obligations.
4. **Prevent unfunded mandates and cost shifting.** Fully fund services delivered by municipalities on behalf of the State and account for municipal implementation, staffing, capital, and operating costs.
5. **Provide predictable and timely support.** Ensure State funding, approvals, and other support are reliable and timely enough for municipalities to plan and deliver services effectively.
6. **Strengthen municipal capacity.** Provide resources, technical assistance, and flexibility that strengthen municipal governance, financial management, operations, and service delivery.

Policy Areas and Sections

Policy area	Sections
I. Governance and Fiscal Partnership	1 Local Governance and Authority 2 State Local Fiscal Partnership 3 Municipal Workforce and Employee Benefits
II. Community Capacity and Development	4 Public Safety and Emergency Management 5 Economic and Community Development 6 Land Natural Resources and Fisheries 7 Education
III. Infrastructure and Resilience	8 Infrastructure Funding and Project Delivery 9 Transportation and Connectivity 10 Energy 11 Coastal Resilience 12 Water Wastewater and Solid Waste

Policy Statements

POLICY AREA I

Governance and Fiscal Partnership

Municipal authority, predictable State-local funding, employee benefits, fiscal stability, and protection from unfunded State policy costs.

1 Local Governance and Authority

Focus: *Preserve municipal authority, local decision-making, and practical tools for accountable local service delivery.*

1.1 Municipal Authority and Local Administration

a) Oppose State management of municipal sales tax and State preemption of locally determined tax rates, exemptions, and administration.
b) Preserve municipal authority over local revenue tools and exemptions, including taxes on resource extraction, production, travel, and tourism.
c) Oppose State action that diminishes local taxing authority or shared State tax revenues.
d) Foster municipal-Tribal collaboration and partnerships that strengthen local governance and service delivery.
e) Increase State capacity and competency for tax assessment and analysis, including stronger collaboration with the State Assessor.
f) Reduce unnecessary municipal paperwork, reporting, outdated statutory or regulatory requirements, State agency fees, and avoidable delays in State approvals.
g) Require legislation to include municipal and school district implementation and fiscal notes identifying administrative, staffing, capital, and operating costs shifted to local governments.
h) Expand municipal authority and self-governance and provide capacity-building support for governance and financial management, including for voluntary adoption of powers, incorporation, and borough formation where feasible.
i) Establish clear borough-organization standards for unorganized areas and ensure the Legislature fulfills its governance role with meaningful local participation.
j) Recognize the cost of large or unusually burdensome public records requests, particularly commercial requests, and allow reasonable local cost recovery and prioritization based on staffing and public need.
k) Recognize municipalities as inherent partners in State policy, budget, legislative, infrastructure, and development decisions, with meaningful participation before actions that materially affect municipal services.
l) Maintain clear local authority over infrastructure-intensive development, including data centers and similar uses that place significant demands on local water, utilities, land, roads, or public services; ensure appropriate studies and community benefit considerations are addressed.

2 State Local Fiscal Partnership

Focus: *Maintain a predictable State-local fiscal partnership that meets State obligations without transferring volatility or uncompensated costs to municipalities.*

2.1 Community Assistance and Intergovernmental Revenue

a) Increase Community Assistance as predictable base support for municipal government, with annual distributions no lower than the current distribution and adjusted for inflation and, where feasible, consistent with the cost of basic municipal services.
b) Allow the Community Assistance Program fund to earn interest or investment returns.
c) Make Community Assistance applications biennial for municipalities in good standing and remove capital improvement plan requirements from the application process.
d) Distribute Community Assistance, grants, pass-through funding, and other State payments within 30 days.
e) Increase tools to waive debt, forgive loans, or otherwise assist financially stressed communities, and align statutory interest penalties with market rates.
f) Protect and strengthen intergovernmental revenues relied upon by municipalities, including federal Payment in Lieu of Taxes, Secure Rural Schools payments, grants, pass-through funds, and locally authorized fees and taxes.
g) Consider a community dividend or similar distribution of State resource wealth that provides stable and broadly shared support for local public services.

2.2 State Fiscal Policy

a) Develop a broad-based, durable State revenue system that reduces fiscal volatility, fulfills statutory and constitutional obligations, supports municipal and resident needs, and protects municipal revenue authority.
b) Maintain a sustainable draw on Alaska Permanent Fund earnings and an investment strategy that appropriately capitalizes the Power Cost Equalization Endowment and Community Assistance Fund for their long-term sustainability.
c) Improve long-term State budget predictability and avoid boom-and-bust decisions that shift fiscal volatility to municipalities and school districts.
d) Inflation-proof statewide spending obligations that include essential State services and State responsibilities relied upon by municipalities, including highway maintenance, ports and transportation infrastructure, the Alaska Marine Highway System, K-12 education, Community Assistance, and community-support functions.
e) Maintain an adequate and growing capital budget that supports critical public infrastructure, reduces barriers to industry, and fosters economic development.
f) Avoid arbitrarily capping State spending inconsistent with the needs of Alaskans, State constitutional and statutory responsibilities, and the impact to instrumentalities of the State, including local governments and school districts.
g) Review State tax policy for economic activity not adequately captured by the current system, including highly digitized businesses and evolving business structures, while protecting local taxing authority.

2.3 State Mandated Exemptions

a) Reimburse municipalities for State-mandated exemptions or, failing that, convert those exemptions to local options or needs-based programs.
b) Ensure the fiscal cost of an exemption serving a statewide policy purpose is not borne solely by the municipality where the exempt property is located.
c) Exclude unreimbursed State-mandated exemptions from State calculations of local fiscal capacity, including full and true value and Required Local Contribution calculations.

3 Municipal Workforce and Employee Benefits

Focus: *Strengthen benefits, recruitment, retention, and workforce capacity for essential municipal and public services.*

3.1 Retirement and Benefits

a) Fully fund State-mandated presumptions of compensability through a Presumption Trust. The State should cover the costs of workers' compensation benefits for certain employees, such as firefighters and other first responders, whose illnesses or injuries are presumed to be work-related under state law, rather than placing that financial burden on local governments.
b) Reduce or eliminate costs associated with termination studies and late payments.
c) Actively reduce the PERS and TRS unfunded liability, use fiscal-year windfalls to reduce long-term obligations, and oppose shifting the State's on-behalf payment above 22 percent to local governments.
d) Restore a defined-benefit retirement option as a significant recruitment and retention tool and provide other tools that strengthen public employee benefits, for those employers who choose this as an option.
e) Provide additional technical assistance to Tier IV employees for long-term retirement planning.
f) Allow retired Tier I, II, and III PERS employees to return to designated shortage positions without unnecessarily jeopardizing retirement benefits while protecting the integrity of the retirement system.
g) Evaluate employer buyout, liability-management, and other tools that allow municipalities to address legacy PERS obligations strategically and sustainably.
h) Evaluate retirement policy through a workforce and service-delivery lens, recognizing that recruitment and retention challenges affect all essential services.

3.2 Workforce Capacity

a) Increase investment in resident training, career and technical education, workforce development, and grow-your-own pathways for municipal and public-sector positions.
b) Recognize housing availability, housing affordability, and childcare as public-sector recruitment and retention constraints, particularly in rural and high-cost communities.
c) Reduce barriers to working in Alaska, including workforce mobility, work visas where State advocacy is appropriate, housing, childcare, and the cost and availability of travel.

d) Expand recruitment and retention tools for positions with high vacancy rates where it affects the ability to deliver State services, including candidate sharing, background checks, lateral transfers, streamlined credentialing, and shared workforce strategies where appropriate. We expect hiring freezes, if necessary, do not affect local governments.
e) Increase the availability and affordability of housing for teachers, public-safety personnel, and other essential municipal and public-sector employees.

Community Capacity and Development

Public safety, workforce and economic capacity, access to land, natural resources, fisheries, and education.

4 Public Safety and Emergency Management

Focus: *Provide the funding, coordination, personnel, and systems municipalities need to protect residents and respond to emergencies.*

4.1 Public Safety and Emergency Management

a) Increase State funding for municipal public safety obligations, including law enforcement training, Community Jails, Village Public Safety Officers, village detention, prosecutors, public defenders, and local detention infrastructure.
b) Strengthen rural public safety by increasing VPSO presence and funding, supporting adequate village detention capacity, encouraging municipal-Tribal partnerships, and creating pathways for greater local governance with clarity for exercising police powers.
c) Improve public safety recruitment and retention through candidate sharing, background checks, lateral transfers, and streamlined Alaska Police Standards Council processes where appropriate.
d) Reduce access to and impacts from opioids and other substances through stronger local partnerships, education, treatment, and prevention.
e) Reduce crime and recidivism through education, substance-use treatment, crisis stabilization and mental health first response programs, Alaska Court System's Therapeutic Courts program, emphasizing treatment, rehabilitation, and accountability as alternatives to traditional incarceration, and comparable diversion programs.
f) Fund the administrative costs of municipal E911 hosting or evaluate a statewide service and fee structure.
g) Increase funding for the Alaska Land Mobile Radio system, including necessary hardware and software upgrades.
h) Reform public safety by increasing carceral diversion, and increasing public defense and prosecutorial capacity, strengthening coordination between State and municipal departments so locally investigated crimes are prosecuted promptly, ensuring accountability, fairness, and improved public safety outcomes.
i) Allow municipalities to recover reasonable employee and overhead costs associated with required production of police video and other unusually burdensome public records requests.

j) Elevate municipal input in emergency and resilience planning and provide adequate State support for local preparedness, including Local Emergency Planning Committees.
k) Provide sufficient funding for trail staking and other safety measures connecting rural communities.
l) Review State Fire Marshal requirements and related regulatory barriers that create unnecessary cost or delay without a commensurate public-safety benefit.

5 Economic and Community Development

Focus: *Build the housing, childcare, business, workforce, and regulatory conditions needed for durable local economies.*

5.1 Local Economic Development

a) Treat housing and childcare as foundational workforce and economic-development infrastructure and increase funding, access, and affordability.
b) Provide resources for local economic development planning, diversification, and small-business development.
c) Support local economies, improve quality of life, and reduce unnecessary regulatory burdens.
d) Increase local control over licensing that affects economic activity, including alcohol licensing, and reconsider State population limits that bypass local planning and zoning responsibilities.
e) Remove population-based limits on alcohol licenses, allowing more breweries, distilleries, restaurants, retailers, and hotels and permitting cities and boroughs local self-regulation, to allow for exceeding quotas for certain licenses.
f) Increase direct municipal connections to the U.S. Economic Development Administration and representation through regional economic and planning organizations.
g) Support responsible resource development and reduce investment barriers while improving environmental risk management.
h) Expand local food production and value-added activity to create jobs, strengthen food security, and retain economic activity locally.
i) Support winter tourism and broader marketing of small and rural communities through stronger coordination with statewide tourism organizations.
j) Target economic assistance and subsidies so communities and residents directly affected by disruption receive meaningful benefits.

6 Land and Natural Resources

Focus: *Make land available for community needs, protect local resource revenue, and support sustainable fisheries and natural-resource management.*

6.1 Access to Land

a) Accelerate the transfer of State lands to municipal governments, including through reduced or State-funded surveying costs.
b) Maintain an appropriate land bank for future boroughs.

c) Increase developable land for housing, infrastructure, and economic activity through timely conveyance, access, planning, and coordination among State, federal, Tribal, and municipal landowners.
d) Prioritize remediation and productive reuse of Formerly Used Defense Sites and other contaminated or encumbered lands that constrain housing, infrastructure, or economic development.
e) Coordinate infrastructure investment and land policy so roads, utilities, and public facilities enable community development.

6.2 Land and Resource Revenue

1) Consider Payment in Lieu of Taxes (PILT) and Community Benefit Agreements (CBAs) for State and private sector development where they support resource development and help local governments meet service responsibilities.
2) Maintain the Oil and Gas Property Tax structure without reducing local rates or revenues.

6.3 Fisheries

a) Ensure fisheries management, monitoring, and environmental science appropriately incorporate local knowledge and locally driven research by appropriately funding ADF&G.
b) Support an active State role in federal fisheries management, including bycatch, and in clean water protection, including transboundary negotiations.

7 Education

Focus: *Provide stable, sufficient, and locally responsive education funding and policy from early learning through workforce preparation.*

7.1 Education

a) Adequately invest in early childhood education.
b) Invest in career and technical education and grow-your-own educator pathways to prepare, attract, and retain qualified local educators and school staff.
c) Support educational accountability and assessment that meets or exceeds federal requirements while maximizing local control.
d) Increase and inflation-proof the Base Student Allocation and periodically review geographic cost differentials and actual school-district cost drivers, including health care, fuel, insurance, housing, and workforce costs.
e) Provide dependable funding for school construction, major maintenance, and deferred maintenance, including an adequate Base Facilities Allocation and predictable capital support.
f) Support charter school opportunities within the existing public education system and retain local school-board approval reflecting budget considerations and local investment.
g) Oppose forced school-district consolidation and support locally negotiated operational efficiencies.

h) Maintain a well-funded school bond debt reimbursement program with full and timely annual State payments.
i) Ensure the University of Alaska has sufficient resources to deliver education, vocational training, workforce development, and credible research.
j) Support culturally relevant curriculum responsive to local decision-making.
k) Increase budget certainty through prompt payments, forward funding or earlier decisions, and other mechanisms that reduce late-year uncertainty.
l) Review the Required Local Contribution structure and its interaction with State aid, including whether the cap should grow predictably with the Base Student Allocation and local fiscal capacity.
m) Consider multi-year smoothing of Average Daily Membership so abrupt enrollment changes do not immediately destabilize staffing and operations.
n) Recognize regional differences in educator recruitment and compensation, including local cost of living and housing availability.
o) Expand early intervention, behavioral health, and effective truancy intervention and enforcement resources for schools and communities.

Infrastructure and Resilience

Infrastructure funding and delivery, transportation, connectivity, energy, coastal resilience, and essential utility systems.

8 Infrastructure Funding and Project Delivery

Focus: *Improve access to infrastructure funding and reduce barriers that delay projects or increase costs.*

8.1 Grant Access and Project Funding

a) Help municipalities access grants by reducing barriers related to cost, timing, match requirements, and administrative complexity.
b) Increase the State capital budget and reinstate the Municipal Matching Grant Program to address deferred maintenance and help communities match or supplement local and federal funding, including through mechanisms such as general obligation bonds.
c) Reduce the time between award, design, procurement, and construction so inflation does not erode project purchasing power.
d) Recognize the effects of inflation and remoteness and allow funding, scope, and match structures that preserve project viability.
e) Allow local governments to manage and directly receive federal project funding where feasible, and waive DOT&PF indirect-cost allocation plan rates on pass-through funding, including transit funding.

8.2 Project Delivery and Asset Management

a) Oppose transferring State road, airport, or other infrastructure maintenance responsibilities to municipalities as a condition of project delivery.

b) Support operations, maintenance, rehabilitation, replacement, and asset management in addition to new construction.
c) Prioritize timely maintenance of existing State and local infrastructure before deferred maintenance creates substantially higher rehabilitation or replacement costs.
d) Review outdated statutes, regulations, and project requirements that unnecessarily increase infrastructure costs or delay delivery.
e) Evaluate the Alaska-specific cost and feasibility effects of Little Davis-Bacon, Buy America, and similar construction requirements, particularly for small and remote projects and communities, while preserving appropriate workers and procurement protections.

9 Transportation and Connectivity

Focus *Maintain safe and reliable transportation systems and expand affordable broadband and cellular connectivity.*

9.1 Transportation Systems

a) Address aging transportation infrastructure and associated operations and maintenance costs.
b) Sustain frequent, consistent, and reliable year-round Alaska Marine Highway System service.
c) Strengthen State advocacy for reliable regional and rural air service and recognize air transportation as essential economic infrastructure.
d) Maintain rural and regional airports and related facilities needed for residents, commerce, tourism, emergency response, and essential services.
e) Include active transportation in State road construction and reconstruction when appropriate to community context and safety.
f) Assess and mitigate community impacts associated with Alaska Railroad activities and projects.

9.2 Broadband and Cellular Connectivity

a) Support State middle-mile investment that expands affordable high-speed broadband and establish regional or local broadband planning committees.
b) Advance short- and long-term strategies for broadband and cellular coverage throughout Alaska.
c) Encourage the State to make cost effective, data driven investments to support local governments.

10 Energy

Focus: *Reduce energy costs and strengthen reliable, resilient, and renewable energy systems.*

10.1 Energy Infrastructure Affordability and Resilience

a) Address aging energy infrastructure and associated operations and maintenance costs.
b) Provide technical assistance and invest in projects, processes, and programs that reduce energy costs and improve access to renewable energy.
c) Reimburse or otherwise assist municipalities with energy-related debt and investments, including through appropriate use of Power Cost Equalization savings.
d) Develop energy corridors and regional projects that improve grid resilience.

e) Adequately fund and use the Renewable Energy Fund and AIDEA investments to advance renewable energy development.
f) Evaluate and advance opportunities associated with the proposed Alaska LNG pipeline and related natural gas infrastructure, ensuring development delivers affordable energy to Alaska communities, supports local economic development, and does not impose undue financial burdens on municipalities or ratepayers.

11 Coastal Resilience

Focus: *Protect coastal communities and the ports, harbors, utilities, and public facilities that support community continuity and commerce.*

11.1 Community Adaptation and Coastal Protection

a) Provide resources for community planning to increase resilience to environmental change and natural hazards, including support for relocation, phased resilience, and protection-in-place.
b) Provide predictable funding for coastal protection, adaptation, replacement, and relocation where erosion, flooding, permafrost degradation, or other environmental change threatens essential infrastructure.
c) Protect transportation, port, harbor, utility, and public safety infrastructure supporting fisheries, tourism, freight, subsistence access, emergency management, and community connectivity.

11.2 Ports and Harbors

a) Invest in port and harbor infrastructure and develop an Alaska Ports Strategy.
b) Fully fund the Harbor Matching Grant Program at a level equal to municipal matching commitments.
c) Provide predictable recapitalization support for municipal ports and harbors.

12 Water, Wastewater, and Solid Waste

Focus *Ensure communities can develop and sustain safe water, sanitation, and solid-waste services.*

12.1 Water Sanitation and Environmental Protection

a) Leverage federal funding so every community with more than 25 residents has access to clean drinking water and sanitation.
b) Provide State funding to improve and maintain facilities subject to the Clean Water Act, including facilities needing Section 301(h) waivers and Section 401 certification.
c) Continue investing in Village Safe Water and the State Revolving Loan Fund and expand outreach and utilization.
d) Provide clean water to communities affected by PFAS, support management of PFAS-affected solid waste, and remediate contaminated sites.
e) Allow reciprocal credentials for wastewater treatment operators.

12.2 Utility Workforce and Long-Term Capacity

a) Fund water and wastewater operator subsidies and certification to expand the pool of qualified operators.

b) Modernize water and wastewater statutes and regulations to reflect current technology, risk, community conditions, and remote service-delivery realities.
c) Accelerate federally funded projects through stronger coordination with the Alaska Native Tribal Health Consortium and other delivery partners.
d) Build long-term utility capacity through operator recruitment, certification, technical assistance, asset management, rate-setting support, and sustainable operations.

12.3 Solid Waste

a) Fund water and wastewater operator subsidies and certification to expand the pool of qualified operators.
b) Create a statewide landfill dashboard and condition inventory so local governments have a single, usable dataset showing the status, condition, ownership, and operation of each landfill.
c) Fund a resource guide showing direct facility-operator support and indirect community-regional support to address additional problems, such as backhaul costs, staffing, and equipment maintenance.
d) Fund an Alaska Community Solid Waste Fiscal Capacity and Funding Gap Analysis to quantify the gap between the reasonable cost of providing basic solid waste service and landfill operations and the amount that can realistically be generated through local rates, taxes, fees, tribal resources, grants, or other existing revenues.